



LAST MONTH'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
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MONDAY JANUARY 29 1990

US plans to pull out of 3 British bases

Surprise cuts likely after Bush budget

By Peter Stothard, Washington, Ian Murray, Bonn, and Michael Evans, London

The United States is expected to pull out of three bases in Britain as part of a comprehensive package of defence cuts to be announced by the Pentagon this week, following the announcement of President Bush's 1991 budget later today, according to sources in Washington.

The three bases are said to be at Fairford in Gloucestershire, Wethersfield in Essex, and Greenham Common, in Berkshire.

The decision to close some foreign bases as well as the proposed 100 home bases in the United States will come as a considerable surprise to NATO governments.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Tom King, Defence Secretary, are both in Washington today and the proposed defence cuts

as well as the security implications of the changes in Eastern Europe will dominate their talks with key American officials. Mr Hurd will also meet President Bush.

There has been time for only the minimum transatlantic consultation about the proposed cuts.

Earlier yesterday Ministry of Defence officials were suggesting that the US defence budget would not contain any real surprises. But the Pentagon's decision to pull US servicemen out of bases in Britain appears to have been a last-minute ploy to appease Congressmen who threaten trouble over the closure of home bases because of job losses.

Sources said that American military facilities throughout Europe were set to close following a hectic weekend of decision-making and political arm-twisting. Bases in West Germany and Greece are among those on what the White House has called a "heavy" list.

The United States has 66 military installations in Britain, including many air bases leased from the RAF.

Fairford, home of the 11th Strategic Group, is the base for 18 KC135 refuelling tankers. Wethersfield is a stand-by operating base and US servicemen stationed there include the 66th Combat Support Squadron and the 819 Civil Engineering Squadron.

Greenham Common was already marked for a change in status because, as one of two cruise missile bases in Britain, it will cease to be used by 1991 after the last of the missiles have been withdrawn under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty.

However, as the base has a full-length runway, it had been assumed the United States would want to keep it as an operating station. The other former cruise missile site, at Molesworth in Cambridgeshire, is to be converted into an alternative US wartime headquarters and a base for American military intelligence analysts.

The sources yesterday said that other bases in Britain were the subject of intense debate in Washington, following a broader than expected

budget-cutting process. Defence analysts in Congress are increasingly concerned that strategic decisions are being driven too fast by considerations of budget costs.

The Ministry of Defence is attempting to complete its annual "long term costings" review of all military spending over the next 10 years but without any clear assessment of what the real requirements will be by the end of the decade.

Defence officials said yesterday that it was much more complicated this year to decide on major new equipment, due to come into service in 10 years' time. "There are so many unknowns," one official said.

The long-term costings review has to be completed by the spring and officials said yesterday that the final details were now being sorted out.

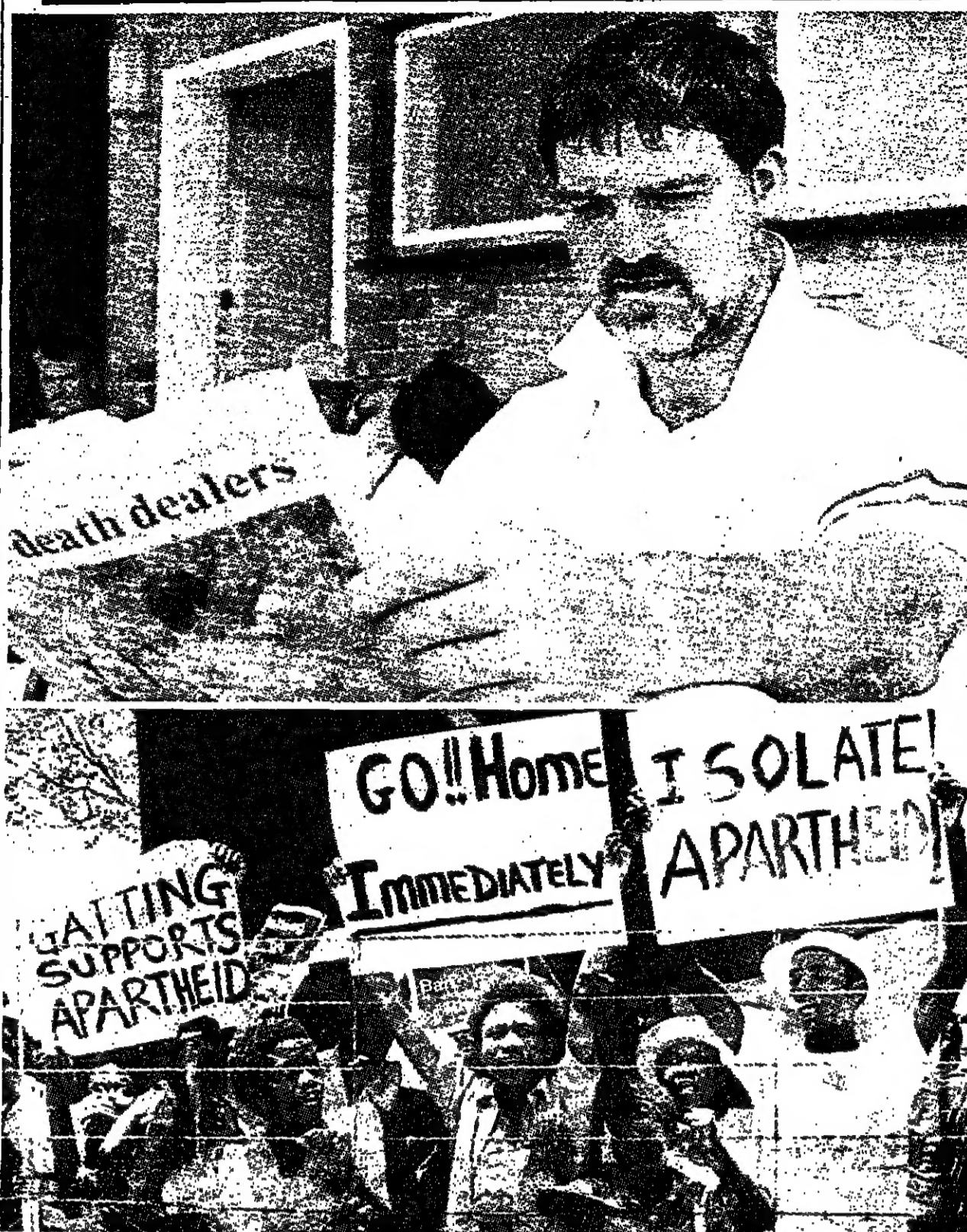
Two weeks ago, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig, chief of the defence staff, flew back from a 35-nation military doctrine seminar in Vienna after spending only a day there, so that he could attend a committee meeting of armed forces chiefs to discuss the long-term costings. Sources insisted it was not a "crisis meeting".

A newspaper report yesterday that the ministry was considering a list of options for cutting back on certain areas of defence spending was described as "groundless speculation".

One option was said to be the scrapping of one of the four proposed Trident submarines which are replacing the Polaris ballistic missile submarine fleet.

One senior ministry source said this was out of the question as four were needed to guarantee patrolling.

Gatting sits out protest storm



No escape from protests: Mike Gatting, captain of the rebel English cricketers in South Africa, reading a paper at Kimberley, where his team won the opening match yesterday as demonstrators shouted slogans at the ground. Tour details, pages 43, 44.

Football inquiry accuses clubs

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The Government is planning a crackdown on football violence and hooliganism after Lord Justice Taylor's report on the Hillsborough disaster and ministers intend to drive home sharp criticisms of the record of the clubs and football authorities.

The report, which is critical of the conditions for spectators at most grounds as well as of ground safety, in effect accuses football clubs of creating hooligans by the poor quality of their facilities.

It will be published this afternoon as Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, makes a statement to MPs on the Government's plans.

He will insist that there will be no public money for the clubs which had £70 million

Cautious welcome.....44

swilling around the transfer market for players last year. The Government will insist on all first and second division clubs converting their grounds to all-seater stadia by the year 2000.

Ministers want to change the whole ethos of Britain's national game, forcing backward clubs to scrap what they see as a philosophy concerned only with getting the ball in the net and never mind the conditions provided for spectators for one which involves the creation of entertainment centres with facilities to satisfy all the family.

Lord Justice Taylor recommends that the new Football Licensing Authority should be given control of all designated sports grounds, not just football ones. With "yobish" behaviour becoming a problem in other sports as well, ministers are believed to be ready to bring in new legislation to that end. Rugby and

Continued on page 20, col 4

INSIDE

CROSSWORD

THE TIMES CROSSWORD DIAMOND JUBILEE

● The Times Crossword is 60 years old this week. To mark the event we are publishing The Times Crossword, the biggest we have ever compiled.

● The puzzle is not only as challenging as any published over the past 60 years, but carries 12 prizes, including a holiday for two in India plus £1,000 cash.

● The first clues to the Diamond Jubilee Crossword appear on page 11, together with the story of how the most famous puzzle in the world came to be.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

● There was one winner of Saturday's £4,000 weekly jackpot. Today's chance to win £2,000 appears on page 27

Christie gold

Lindor Christie won the gold medal for the 100 metres at the Commonwealth Games yesterday, the first win by an Englishman in the event for 52 years. Pages 38, 39

Cup replay

Norwich and Liverpool will replay their FA Cup fourth round tie on Wednesday after a goalless draw yesterday. Manchester United won 1-0 at Hereford. Page 43

INDEX	
Home News	23-56
Overseas	7-10
Business	21-24
Sport	37-44
Arts	14
Births, marriages, deaths	17
Crime & Social	3
Crosswords	16, 20
Diary	12
Education	34-35
Entertainment	18
Features	11, 12, 15
Information	18
Law Report	36
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Nature notes	16
On This Day	16
Religion	17
Science Report	17
Snow reports	42
Social report	26-30
TV & Radio	19
Weather	20

Floods and new gales ahead

By Ray Clancy

Severe gales and heavy rain affected most of the country yesterday as police and weathermen issued warnings about serious flooding from swollen rivers and melting snow today.

The London Weather Centre said Scotland could suffer severe flooding as rising temperatures melt snow in many parts of the North.

Heavy snow blocked many roads yesterday and gusts of up to 60mph were recorded in coastal areas as repairs continued on property, transport links and power lines damaged by last Thursday's storms. The snow brought down several electricity pylons and blocked roads in North Wales, Cumbria and Derbyshire. Several inches of snow fell in Snowdonia.

Storm inquiry.....2
Letters.....13
Forecast details.....20

where a group of scouts were found safe by the Llanberis mountain rescue team after they lost their way on Crib Goch on Saturday night.

In Devon and Cornwall

police issued flood alerts as rivers came close to bursting their banks after heavy rain-falls. Hundreds of acres of farmland were under water and a flock of sheep were up to their necks in water just off the M5 near Exeter.

Severe gusts of 55mph are forecast for coastal areas and headlands in the South-west. The meteorologists said, however, that although winds may be gale force in parts of the West and South, there were not expected to wreak the same devastation as those experienced last week.

£190m boost for inner cities and the homeless

By Our Political Editor

A near £200 million package to improve urban housing and help cut the numbers of homeless is expected to be announced today by Mr Michael Spicer, the Minister for Housing and Planning.

In a further instalment of the Government's Estate Action Programme, Mr Spicer is to spell out the regional distribution of £190 million worth of grants aimed at clearing up eyesores and improving life on large council estates, particularly those in

inner city areas. The money is in addition to the £250 million earmarked in the Autumn Statement for new homeless hostels; it will go towards improving housing stock that has fallen into disrepair and spring-cleaning estates.

Part of the aim of the Estate Action programme is to stimulate better management of council housing estates, so the new money will go only to councils which have given assurances about how problems, particularly those in

Lightning hits Princess Margaret's holiday jet

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent



Princess Margaret: Sitting only feet away from impact.

Princess Margaret set off for a holiday on the Caribbean island of Mustique yesterday but was forced instead to spend the night in a Manchester hotel after her British Airways jumbo jet was disabled by lightning.

The Princess and Viscount Linley, her son, were among 170 passengers stranded for an estimated 20 hours after the nose of the Boeing 747 was struck as it made its final approach to the airport.

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent for The Times, was also a passenger on the aircraft when the lightning struck. He said: "Twenty minutes before we were due to land in Manchester we were told to fasten our safety belts because of

heavy cloud cover. The next thing I knew there was a tremendous bang, and a flash which lit up the whole aircraft. I thought we were on fire.

"The plane shuddered and rocked and it was clear we had been hit by lightning. There was no announcement about the incident, but no one panicked."

It was not until the passengers left the plane that they realized the full extent of the damage. Lee said: "There was considerable damage to the nosecone and radar equipment."

Princess Margaret was in the first-class section of the plane only feet from where the initial lightning impact jolted the aircraft before being conducted down special channels the length of the aircraft and leaving through the tail.

Flight 255 from Gatwick had taken off

normally at 12.30pm. It landed without problems at Manchester despite the damage to its nosecone, but then presented British Airways with a complex logistical problem.

A replacement radar is too big to fit into most cargo holds, so a new set was dispatched by road from Heathrow. At the same time another aircraft was prepared for flight to Manchester, where engineers planned to strip out its radar to fit to the damaged jumbo. The plane was delayed, however.

By the time the replacement radar could have arrived at Manchester by road, the original flight crew would have run out of permitted duty hours. It was therefore decided to put up all the passengers in a hotel. Their flight is now expected to leave at 9.30am today.

Baby kidnap charge

By David Sapsted

A woman will appear in court today charged with stealing Alexandra Griffiths, the three-week-old baby found on Friday night after 15 days.

Mrs Janet Griffiths, aged 33, of the Old Police House, Burford, Oxfordshire, was charged with child stealing under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act. She will appear before Horseferry Road,

central London, magistrates. She was driven to London in a police convoy after being discharged from the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

The baby, snatched from St Thomas's Hospital, south London, was taken home by her parents, Miss Dawn Griffiths and Mr Geoffrey Harris, of Gipsy Hill, south London.

Photographs, page 20

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Ford and Rover lay off 11,500

More than 11,500 workers are laid off as three of Britain's biggest car factories are closed by unofficial strikes and production cuts (Kevin Eason writes).

Ford will tell 10,000 workers at its Southampton and Halewood plants to go home today because of an unofficial strike by 500 craftsmen. The maintenance men and technicians based at Halewood, Merseyside, have refused to accept the productivity conditions attached to the 10.2 per cent pay deal accepted by the rest of the company's 32,000 manual workers. Their rejection of the deal has cost the company more than £100 million in lost output over the past two weeks.

Rover will send home 1,500 workers at Cowley, Oxford, tomorrow because of a £200 million backlog of unsold Executive 800 series models. Workers will continue to receive full pay but they will lose efficiency bonuses worth about £30 a week during the lay-off. Rover says 26 days of production will be lost before Easter to reduce stocks.

Tory MP defiant

The Conservative hold on its safe seat of Monmouth has been threatened by the decision of its MP, Sir John Stradling Thomas, to defy moves to deselect him. "I am determined to stand as a Conservative candidate whatever the result of the secret ballot," he said yesterday. His stand is embarrassing Conservatives in Wales after the deselection of Sir Anthony Meyer in Clwyd North-West.

General election: Stradling Thomas, Sir John (C) 22,387; Gass, Mrs K. (Lab) 12,037; Llandley C.D. (SDP/All) 11,313; Mercedudd, Mrs S. (Pl C) 363; majority 9,350.

Curbing judges' power

A fetter on the powers of senior judges to block government reforms to allow solicitors into the higher courts is being put forward by the Labour Party and supported by the Law Society and the Consumers' Association (Frances Gibb writes). Lord Mishcon, a Labour peer, has tabled an amendment to the Courts and Legal Services Bill which would ensure judges could not block rules allowing solicitors advocacy rights in the higher courts. Treasury aid to CPS page 5

'Let prisoners return'

The Home Office should grant more transfer requests from Irish-born prisoners wishing to serve their sentences in Northern Ireland or the Irish Republic, says a report published today (Quentin Cowdry writes). The cost and effort for relatives visiting such inmates places families under intolerable stress, it says. The report was compiled by the National Association of Probation Officers, the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas, the Committee on the Administration of Justice and the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

Kipling play found

A lost play by Rudyard Kipling has been discovered by an antiquarian bookseller in Battle, East Sussex, who intends to publish it in April. The text of *The Harbour Watch*, in one act, was found among a mixed collection of papers by Mr John Broome, who bought them from the estate of a clergyman in Scotland. The manuscript is the seventh and last of the Pycroft Stories, the adventures of Kipling's popular creation, Petty Officer Emmanuel Pycroft.

English bridge win

The revived *Sunday Times* Bridge Pairs Championship at the Regent's Park Hilton saw a resounding victory for Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson, the only English pair among 14 pairs of world champions (Harold Franklin writes). Leading players, with scores: 1. Forrester, Robson (England) 477; 2. Robert Goldman, Paul Soloway (US) 448; 3. Ron Anderson, Dave Berkowitz (US) 426; 4. Gabriel Chagas, Marcelo Branco (Brazil) 419; 5. Carlos Teixeira, José Debonnaire (Portugal) 415; 6. Omar Sharif, Paul Chermia (Egypt, France) 407; 7 (Equal), Billy Eisenberg, Benito Garozzo (US, Italy) and Zia Mahmood, Alan Sontag (Pakistan, US).

Met Office examines storm warning media links



A Royal Navy auxiliary barge, aground on the promenade at Southsea, Hampshire, yesterday after it broke adrift during gale force winds while being towed.

By Michael McCarthy
Environment
Correspondent

The Meteorological Office is to carry out its own internal inquiry this week into Thursday's great storm, the head of forecasting, Mr Colin Flood, said yesterday.

It will concentrate on how warnings of the storm were publicized, rather than on the forecasts themselves, which the Meteorological Office said were accurate, Mr Flood said.

The inquiry, likely to be chaired by Dr John Houghton, the Director-General, will examine the links between the Meteorological Office and the national news media, including radio, television and newspapers, to see if they can be improved.

Mr Flood said that while the storm had been accurately predicted as far back as last Sunday and an urgent warning issued on Wednesday evening when its true magnitude became apparent, it was possible that more might have been done with the media on Thursday morning.

"Probably the impact might have been greater in the morning. The trouble is, it is quite difficult to get the media to react in advance," Mr Flood said.

The inquiry will consider whether the form of urgent forecasts needs to be changed.

The possibility of going beyond general forecasts and specifying directly how people might be affected, such as possible damage to certain types of property, was another area that might be looked at, Mr Flood said.

The Meteorological Office is satisfied that it accurately predicted last week's storm, in contrast to the storm of October 1987.

Mr Flood yesterday discounted a suggestion that its forecast would have been better had the new super-computer at the organization's headquarters in Bracknell, Berkshire, been running.

The new machine, a Cray YNP 8/32, is the fastest in the world, capable of 3,000 million operations a second, about eight times faster than the present Met Office Cyber computer, installed in 1981.

The Cray was delivered last month after an earlier super-computer bought to replace the Cyber system proved inadequate during its trials in April last year.

Mr Flood said that the Met Office's *Met-Mag*, which suffered serious head injuries when a piece of wood smashed through its window screen during last Thursday's storm, was regaining consciousness in hospital yesterday.

Although he was still seriously ill, he was breathing unaided and appeared out of immediate danger in Charing Cross hospital London.

Letters, page 13.

Guarded Brooke hints at political progress for Ulster

IRA bomb blast kills youth in Bloody Sunday parade

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

A young man was killed yesterday and eight other people, including three civilians, were injured when an IRA bomb exploded in the Bogside area of Londonderry during a Republican parade.

Hundreds of people were thrown to the ground when the bomb exploded at about 4.15pm as a Bloody Sunday commemoration march approached Free Derry Corner.

The bomb was thought to have been placed in the old city wall at Walker's Monument and detonated about 1,000 yards from marchers.

Witnesses said the youth, aged 17, who was standing near the route, was hit in the head by a projectile and lay dying in the arms of people who cradled him.

The three civilians, four police officers and a soldier who were standing near the site of the explosion were injured. All were rushed to hospital, although none was said to be seriously hurt.

The IRA later claimed responsibility for the attack, which was seen as an attempt

to kill members of the security forces on duty for the parade.

None of the participants in the parade was injured. It continued as planned.

The dead man, from Strabane, brings to eight the number killed in violence associated with the trouble in Northern Ireland so far this year.

Among the speakers at the rally, within a few hundred yards of the explosion, was Paul Hill, the former Guildford four prisoner. The parade commemorated the shooting dead of 13 men in Londonderry during a civil rights march on January 30, 1972.

Earlier, Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, spoke with guarded optimism of the chances of political progress in the province, but gave no hint that the Government is prepared to accede to unionist preconditions before talks could begin.

Speaking in a BBC interview in Boston on Saturday night during a 10-day visit to the United States, Mr Brooke emphasized that progress was

a possibility. "There is enough evidence... that people do want to move, that it is worth carrying out explorations further, but I have consistently said I do not wish to be over-optimistic. I have consistently said we are talking about a possibility rather than a probability," he said.

Mr Brooke said that the process begun by him in meetings with party leaders last summer, which are to continue next week, could easily "run out of gas".

However, he did not believe that respective preconditions of nationalist and unionist parties on coming to the negotiating table represented insurmountable obstacles.

"If it turns out that we have run out of gas, then we will know where we are. Then we will pause and we will resume at a later date," he said.

Although Mr Brooke indicated that the Government would not insist on a form of devolution as the only objective of talks, he gave no hint of flexibility on unionist demands for a suspension of the

Anglo-Irish Agreement and a temporary closure of the secretariat at Maryfield, Belfast.

However, he did say that a change in the present treaty could come at the same time as a future all-party agreement rather than strictly as a consequence of it.

Recent moves towards dialogue are expected to feature prominently at this Wednesday's Anglo-Irish meeting in London between Mr Brooke and Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister.

Mr Brooke said any further movement was a matter for the local parties in Northern Ireland. Unless they wanted to talk and to seek an agreement, "we are not going to get anywhere," he said.

The view I have been taking is that there is a desire to move forward from the position we are in at the present time," Mr Brooke was speaking at the end of a week in which politicians on all sides in Northern Ireland indicated that they wanted to start talks to see if an agreement could be reached.

Theft of documents alleged

By David Sapped

Allegations that secret documents, including letters from a Cabinet minister, were stolen in a series of burglaries at the London home of Professor Sir Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace, were being investigated last night.

Mr Martin O'Neill, the Labour spokesman on defence, said he would ask Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, about reports in a Sunday newspaper that confidential files were taken from Sir Roland's flat. These were said to include letters from Lord Young, the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and a memorandum from the National Audit Office about the £38 million government "sweetener" paid to BAe to buy the Rover group.

The Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry has also written to Sir Roland asking him how letters sent to him by Lord Young came into the possession of the *Times* Sunday last year.

"When Sir Roland appeared before our committee, he declined to give us the answers in public session and so we have now asked him to furnish details in writing," Mr Ken Warren, the committee chairman said.

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MORI poll
Tories facing hard task to improve image as Labour widens its lead

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Labour's lead over the Conservatives has widened to 12 points in the latest MORI opinion poll, and figures on the public image of the parties suggest that the Government's task in whitening down that lead is becoming harder.

The state of the parties is: Labour, 48 per cent; Conservatives, 36 per cent; Liberal Democrats, 5 per cent; Green Party, 5 per cent; SDP, 3 per cent; Others, 3 per cent. Labour support is up 2 per cent on December and the Conservatives' support is down 3 per cent. Of the 134 opinion polls conducted by the big polling organizations since the last General Election, in June 1987, only two have given Labour a bigger lead.

Although the Conservatives have not led Labour in a big national poll since last May, ministers have been shrugging off the Labour advance as a mid-term phenomenon. Conservative MPs have been confident that a customary swing back towards the Government of the day between now and the next election will wipe out the Labour lead.

Normally, Governments have achieved a swing-back in their favour of 6 to 7 per cent between the middle of a Parliament and the election. At a similar stage in the last Parliament, the Conservatives had a 1 per cent lead over Labour, which, with a 5 per cent swing, they turned into a lead of 11 per cent at the election. But if the Government, in its present position, achieves no more than a 6.5 per cent average swing between now and the next election, the Conservatives would just lose their majority.

What will make it harder for them is that Labour's image has improved with the public on almost every key point since April 1988. Ten per cent fewer see Labour as divided, 7 per cent fewer see it as extreme, and 4 per cent fewer see it as out of touch with ordinary people. Three per cent fewer say that they understand the problems facing Britain. Almost six in ten, including four in ten intending Conservative voters, say that the Tories are too dominated by Mrs Thatcher, compared with the 8 per cent who say that Labour is too dominated by its leader.

Only 7 per cent overall say that the Conservatives represent all classes, but 22 per cent say that Labour does.

The Conservative score of 15 per cent for "has sensible policies" compares with a Labour rating of 18 per cent, and while 18 per cent say that the Conservatives are extreme, only 13 per cent say that now of Mr Kinnoch's party, a 7 per cent drop on April 1988.

Fifty-six per cent say that the Conservatives are out of touch with ordinary people, compared with only 9 per cent who say that of Labour.

Despite commentary on the improved performance of Labour's senior spokesmen, the Conservatives are still rated as having the better Front Bench. Only 12 per cent say that Labour has a good team of leaders, while 20 per cent say that of the Conservatives. Only 24 per cent of Labour supporters say that Labour has a good team.

The Conservative leadership rating has begun to climb again after Mr Nigel Lawson's resignation as Chancellor of the Exchequer and the reshuffle which followed.

One in five Labour supporters still see the party as divided, a proportion likely to increase with publicity being given to the Militant Tendency over the frozen deselection of Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead.

Overall, the position of the Conservatives has worsened or stayed the same on 11 of the 14 image questions since April 1988, while Labour's image has improved on 12 counts.

The Economic Optimism Index, obtained by subtracting the percentage of those who believe the economy will get worse over the next 12 months from those who believe it will improve, is at minus 31. Only in one month since the last election has that figure been worse, at minus 33.

The poll shows a 7 per cent rise in people listing inflation among the most important issues.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,843 adults aged 18 plus in 140 constituency sampling points across Great Britain. The interviews were conducted face-to-face, at home, between 18-22 January, 1990. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. © MORI/Times Newspapers.

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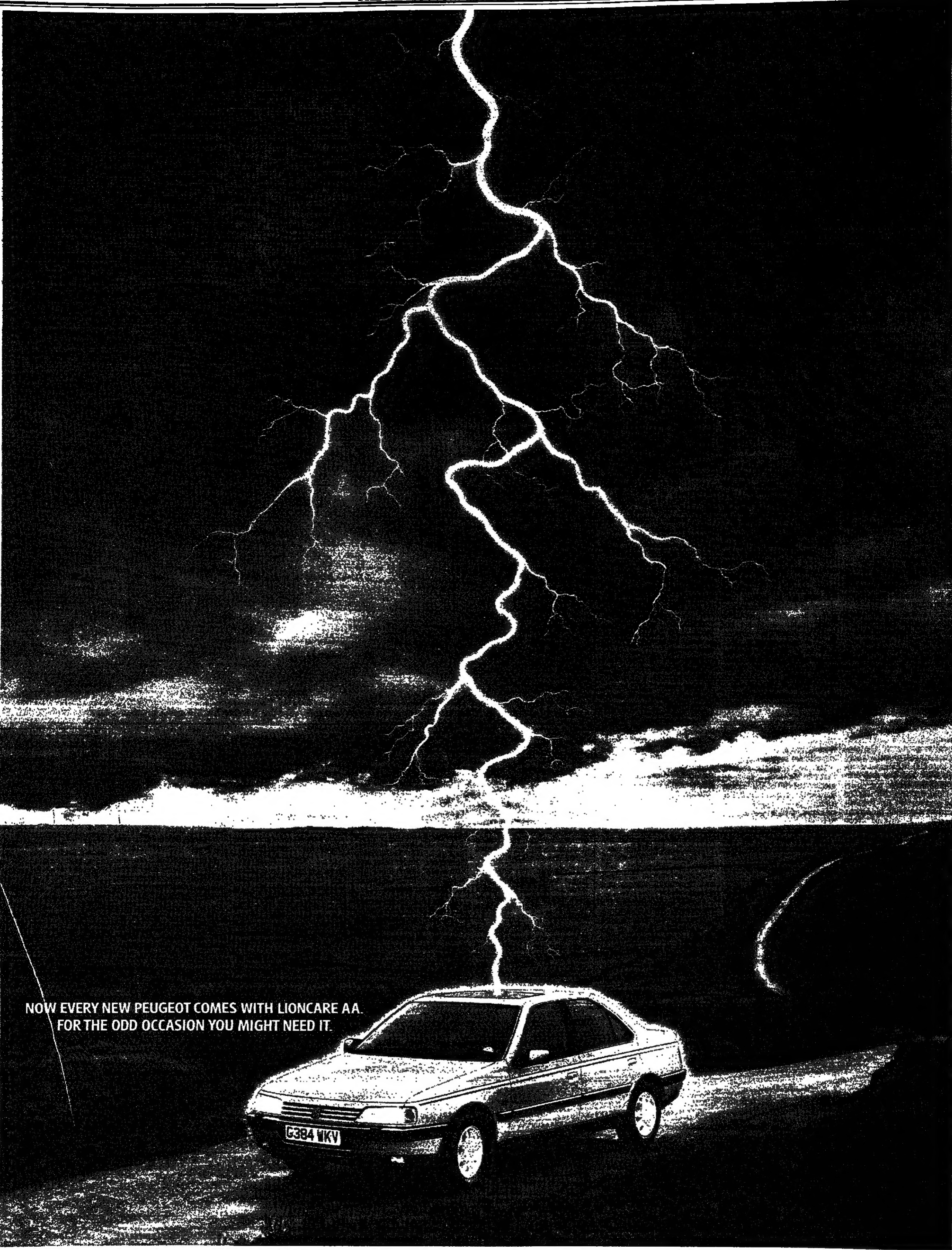
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ANNUAL INCOME £..... OCCUPATION.....
PLEASE STATE IF SELF-EMPLOYED YES/NO NUMBER OF YEARS..... MONTHS.....
EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS.....
YOUR PARTNER SURNAME, INITIALS/USUALS.....
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TEL NO (DAY) STD..... LEVEL STD.....
DATE OF BIRTH..... NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS.....
ANNUAL INCOME £..... OCCUPATION.....
PLEASE STATE IF SELF-EMPLOYED YES/NO NUMBER OF YEARS..... MONTHS.....
EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS.....
NUMBER OF YEARS SERVICE.....
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Crown Prosecution Service under scrutiny

Treasury ready to inject £4m to boost recruitment

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Treasury is poised to approve a £4 million to £5 million package of improvements to the career structure of lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service.

The package, which would represent a boost for lawyers in the service, will do much to improve its image at a time when the first, large-scale scrutiny of the CPS gets under way this week.

The common home affairs committee, under Sir John Wheeler, MP, on Wednesday embarks on a detailed investigation of the CPS and its impact on the criminal justice system.

It will look at how far the CPS, which got off to a shaky start, is critically understaffed and underfunded, and thereafter the butt of constant criticism, has improved, and how many problems remain.

The verdict of Mr Stephen Gratton, chairman of the CPS group within the lawyers' union, the First Division Association, is that the service is much improved. But recruitment, and retention of staff, are still the main problems. The package, which will enable lawyers on the scale to move up to the next and become eligible for performance points, was the single most important measure that could be taken to improve this, he said.

At present, the grading structure confines 90 per cent of lawyers to the two lowest legal grades with less than 3 per cent able to attain grade five, described as the "career grade". Partly as a result, the CPS loses 10 per cent of experienced lawyers a year, apart from the problem of

attracting enough to fill the present 400 vacancies.

"The idea of the CPS is generally accepted as a good one; and the management have got their act together far better," Mr Gratton said. "But it is still under-staffed and under-resourced."

The union is one of the main bodies to have given evidence to the home affairs committee and in its submission, to be published this



Sir John Wheeler: Detailed investigation of CPS.

week, it highlights the problems that have bedevilled the service from the outset.

From the start, it says, underfunding has been a "major reason" behind the inability of the service to fulfil its aims. "For example, the failure to progress files in time has resulted too often in the discharge/dismissal of cases. Criticisms arising therefrom, whether merited or unmerited, have caused the public to hold the service in low esteem."

Among the main factors that contributed to the weaknesses of the service are: under-estimates of staffing needs; the short time for the setting up of the service; poor targeting of resources and the

use of agency staff (outside lawyers); the "apparent inability of top management to identify and act swiftly to eliminate these serious flaws ..."; and salaries too low to attract enough lawyers.

This last "proved near disastrous when an entirely new department, heavily dependent on legal expertise, had to be established in a very short time."

Miss Robyn Dasey, assistant general secretary of the First Division Association, which represents most of the 1,400 lawyers in the service, said that recent management changes, in which the four CPS regional directors were offered redundancy, were a big improvement. There were also better pay and conditions. But severe shortages remained.

The average shortage of lawyers below requirement, she said, over the three years, was 25 per cent or more. In late 1989, offices as diverse geographically as Derbyshire, Cambridge, Leicestershire, Humberside and London were working on less than half legal establishment. The Treasury package would do much, she added, to retain and recruit lawyers.

Outside the service, the verdict is similar: much improved, although weaknesses remain and these, outside lawyers say, stem from poor liaison with the police.

Mr James Morton, editor of *New Law Journal* and a solicitor who prosecutes for the CPS, says: "Most of the initial troubles, such as the over-use of inexperienced barristers and solicitors, are over." Despite an over-reliance on outside agents, because of the staff shortages

(just over £15 million was spent on agents' fees in 1988/89), standards of presentation in court are better among CPS staff and the outside lawyers used, he says.

In London, where the service has taken longest to settle down because the police used to do much of the prosecuting and resented the loss of the work, there are still problems caused by the physical distances between the police and CPS offices, he said.

"When you have got to travel three-quarters of an hour between Wood Green and Hendon by public transport — no wonder files get lost."

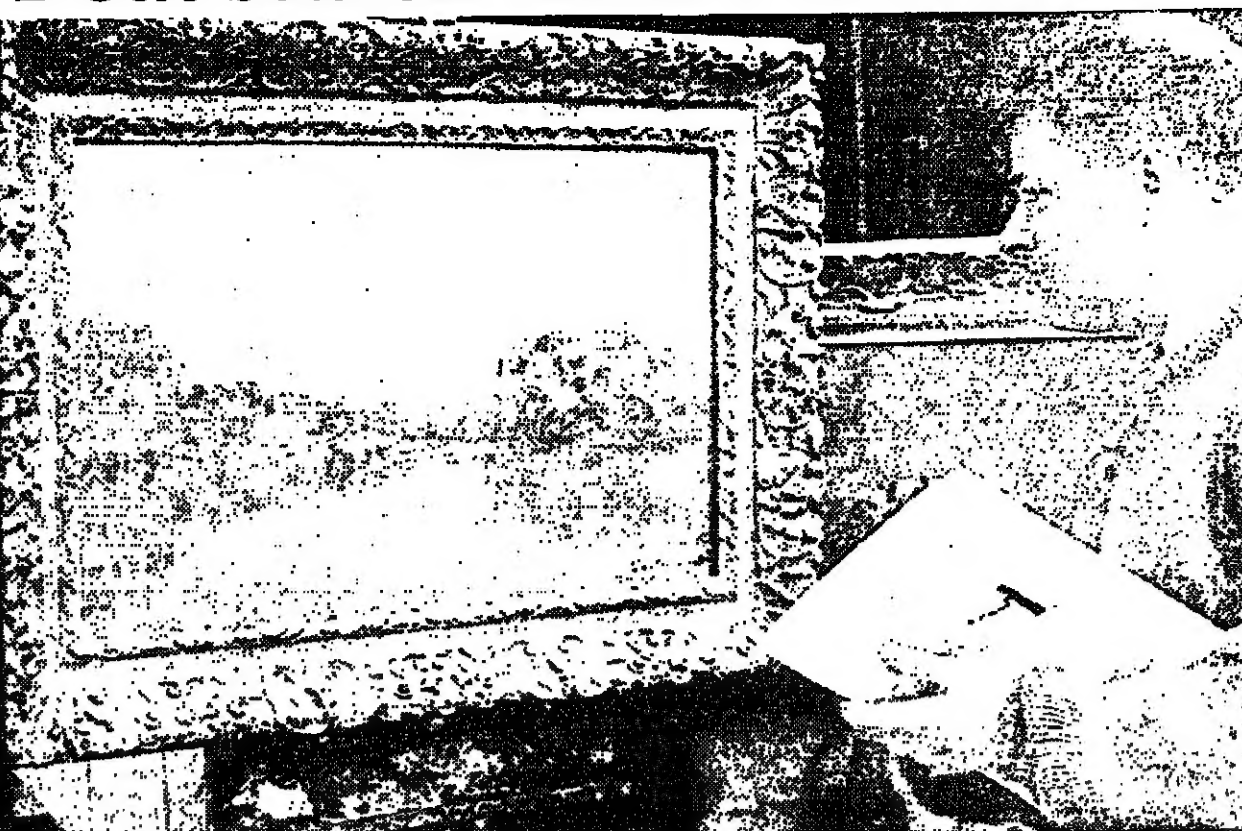
The CPS has been the butt, often unfairly, of much criticism when cases have collapsed or been dismissed because of failure of papers to arrive or be ready on time.

But where police are uncooperative, or where there are sheer physical problems of distance, there is no mechanism, Mr Morton says, by which the CPS can compel the police to produce files on time. The system at present, is "fatally flawed", he says.

"We need some kind of arrangement, like the District Attorney, where someone can be in charge of liaising between the police and the CPS, someone in the police station at the time of investigation so that proper advice can be given early on and who can supervise the passing over of files."

Overall, lawyers in and out of the service believe the service is finally out of the tunnel. If the structure and relations with the police can be tackled, the service may at last be secure.

Boat search finds Monet scene



Mr James Glennie, the auctioneer, with the Monet painting, "On the Seine at Vétheuil", found in a Norwich house.

'Pastiche' may fetch £500,000

A landscape painting of the river Seine signed Claude Monet but always thought to be a pastiche worth £200 has been identified as genuine and worth up to £500,000, it was confirmed yesterday (writes John Shaw).

The painting, in tranquil shades of green, belongs to a man living in Norfolk. He wishes to remain anonymous but is "surprised and pleased", Mr James Glennie, a Norwich auctioneer, said.

The new attribution comes after five months of painstaking art detective work in Britain, France and the United States. The two men even took a rowing boat to identify the spot where Monet painted the scene from his own studio boat in 1879-80. "Basically this

picture had been sitting on the wall of a house in Norfolk for years," Mr Glennie said. "It was owned by a client of mine. I was visiting him and we got talking about it. He said it was only a pastiche valued at £200, which belonged to his father who left it to him in 1982."

"Eventually, we decided to investigate and our inquiries became very extensive. The basic mistake was over where the picture was painted and this led to it being miscatalogued for years and years."

"Everybody thought it was painted at Argenteuil, just outside Paris and a favourite place with the Impressionists. But if you look closely and examine the style, you will see it is a lot later than that and was done at Vétheuil, about 70

miles north Paris. Monet was only there for a brief period when his wife was ill. She later died. They were very poor at the time and it is generally accepted by his biographers that if they had the funds she would have lived, so this picture comes from a very tragic part of his life.

"We put a lot of ground work into this. We drove around for hours and even took a rowing boat out on the river to pinpoint the scene, which is virtually unchanged today. We believe this picture was painted about 200 yards from Monet's cottage."

Mr Glennie said he had also consulted experts in London and Paris. Final confirmation came from Dr Paul Tucker, a Monet scholar, who has orga-

nized a major exhibition devoted to the artist, which opened at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on Saturday.

Monet sold the painting to Paul Georges Petit, a dealer, and it then passed through various hands in Cairo, Paris and London. It was handled by Arthur Tooth, a famous dealer in London, and one of the first to introduce Impressionism to Britain.

It was sold as a genuine work. Mr Glennie said that "doubt subsequently crept in and it was only thought to be a pastiche". The owner's father bought it in 1952.

The Norwich sale on April 6 will also offer work by Vuillard, Boudin and Fantin-Latour. However, the Monet is sure to attract the dealers.

Police evidence to MPs likely to be very critical

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

Police evidence critical of the role and failings of the Crown Prosecution Service will be released this week as the Commons select committee on home affairs begins its hearings into the impact of the service on the criminal justice system.

All three staff associations within the police service, covering every rank, have submitted memorandums of evidence, which will be published on Wednesday. Next week the associations will begin giving oral evidence.

The memorandums are regarded as confidential until Wednesday and a spokesman for the Police Federation would merely say that the police evidence is critical but "not destructively so".

Since the start of the CPS there has been friction between police, who often carried out their own prosecutions in magistrates' courts before the service was formed, and lawyers.

The evidence is certain to reflect something of the considerable attacks levelled on the CPS by the police service.

Last year the CPS was described as the "criminals' protection society" at the annual conference of the Federation. Members of the Police Superintendents' Association have questioned

whether an independent prosecution service can really work.

There is general criticism that the service uses too many agency lawyers, who prove to be too young, too inexperienced or too close to retirement.

Faced with piles of files before court appearances they do not have enough time to prepare their cases.

A service set up to provide a more efficient prosecuting service and free police from court work is said to have become an under-funded, bureaucratic disaster which has not helped the police.

For years the federation, which represents ranks up to chief inspector, has expressed unhappiness about the CPS.

One complaint has been the refusal of the service to pursue with sufficient rigour those offenders charged with attacks on officers. Too often a plea to a lesser charge has been accepted.

At the conference last year anger boiled over when delegates were told of a catalogue of disasters caused by the CPS, which was said to care more for economy than justice.

Staff at the CPS had played judge and jury in dropping cases and someone was even said to have used the service as a training ground before going into private practice.

There were also cases, it was said, where fingerprint evidence was found in burglary cases but the CPS still demanded other evidence.

Victims and witnesses were left adrift because no one in the CPS told them what was going on or why decisions had been taken.

One officer at the conference cited the case of a girl who was attacked by her boy friend and arrived in court to discover the Crown was offering no evidence.

More senior officers feel the CPS has become a third bureaucracy within the criminal justice system alongside the police and the courts.

There is little attempt to liaise and discuss and constant demands on the police to do work which should properly be done by the service itself.

Tape-recording of interviews is being widely introduced and police feel the CPS should be responsible for any transcription.

Instead, it is the police who are having to do that work. The police still have to look after the bureaucracy of going to court, such as warning witnesses, when the CPS should be doing that work.

Instead of saving police time and work the CPS, some officers would argue, has in fact made little difference to greater efficiency.

Bar agrees to pay fixed £6,000 to 450 trainees

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

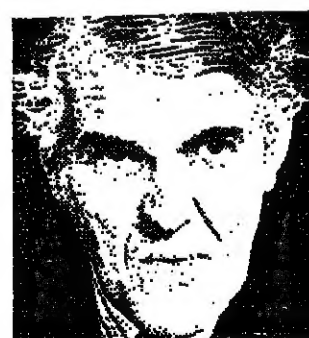
About 450 trainee barristers will be paid a minimum fixed income of £6,000 during their pupillage year under reforms agreed by the Bar Council at the weekend.

The move, which comes in the wake of the report of a working party chaired by Mr Justice Phillips, signals an end to the traditional training for the Bar, which for many pupils meant financial hardship.

It also, in effect, sets a ceiling on the numbers who will come into the profession, although the door will still be open for those who can finance themselves and find a training place in chambers.

The report says that funding for trainee barristers, at present on an ad hoc basis with chambers making their own arrangements, should be greatly improved to ensure financial hardship does not deter able candidates coming to the Bar.

"However attractive life at the Bar may be, there must be many who, quite reasonably, are not prepared to incur, or increase, indebtedness during the pupillage year as the price for what is no more than the chance of establishing a practice at the Bar," it says. It



Mr Cresswell: "Proof of Bar's modern approach."

recommends that the profession should provide funded places for about 450 pupils a year, and that a funded pupil should be assured of an income of at least £3,000 every six months. The figure will be under annual review.

"The payment of a sum by way of basic maintenance will not only serve to remove the criticism that the Bar is a profession only open to those with private means — it will remove a disincentive that must deter able candidates," it says.

Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, Bar chairman, welcomed the report. "This proves the Bar's modern approach. The able can compete, whatever their

background and whatever their means." It is hoped the scheme will be operational by next autumn.

The total 450 funded places likely to be created is a number well in excess of the present annual intake into the profession but significantly lower than the yearly number at present doing pupillages, nearly 560.

It is accepted however that not all those wish to practise at the Bar, where in any event there are only 300 to 350 permanent places, or tenancies, for those who successfully complete pupillage.

For those chambers who cannot fund pupillages, the report recommends a kind of "life boat" support fund to which individual chambers could apply for financial help.

At present arrangements vary widely; some chambers cannot afford to pay pupils, while a small number of leading commercial and specialist chambers are planning to offer awards which compete with the sums offered by City solicitors to articled clerks, in some cases £18,000 for the year.

The next step in implementing the proposals is negotiating with the Inns of Court.

"Unlike me, my Rolex never needs a rest."

Wherever his travels may take him, Plácido Domingo takes a series of green bound books. Into these he writes his engagements three years ahead; such are the demands of the major Opera Houses of the world on the man acclaimed as possibly the greatest living tenor.

Plácido Domingo has committed some eighty different operatic roles to memory. He believes this daunting repertoire is necessary to attract the widest possible audience. For this is his ambition: to help more people, all over the world, enjoy and appreciate the music he loves.

In recent years, Domingo has presented a live video perform-

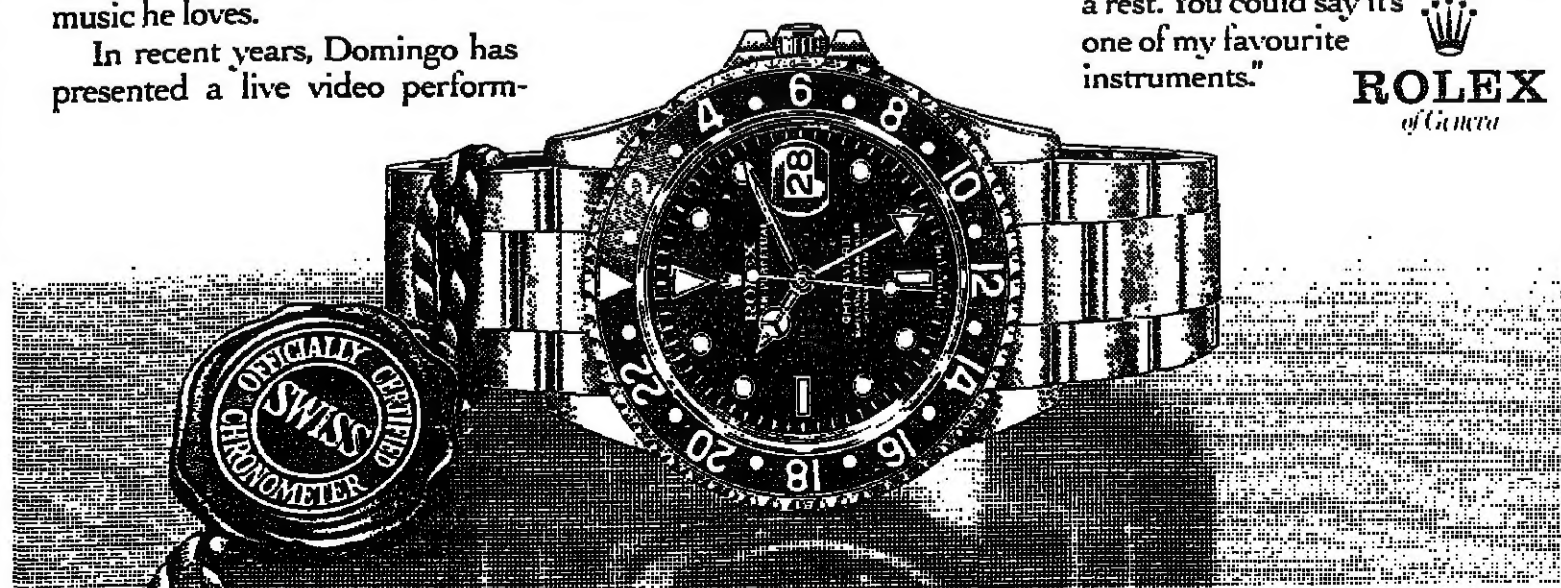
ance of 'La Bohème' to an audience outside Covent Garden. He provoked a rapturous ovation in China (until then, Chinese audiences seldom even applauded). And a legendary curtain call in Barcelona lasted one hour and fifty minutes. "It would have been easier," Plácido has said, "to sing the opera all over again."

Over and above this punishing schedule, Plácido has sung many benefits, has been appointed President of the European Youth Opera, has appeared in films and videos, and has renewed his interest in conducting.

As a student at the Mexico City Conservatoire, this was his main study. Now Domingo can bring all the experience of his singing career to bear on his conducting. "The operatic conductor is like a Roman charioteer," he says. "He has a hundred horses on stage and a hundred horses in the pit. And he has to control them all."

To keep up with these ever-increasing demands on his time Plácido Domingo, the Ambassador of Opera, relies on his Rolex. "This watch is perfect for me," he says, "because, unlike me, it never needs a rest. You could say it's one of my favourite instruments."

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Mr Major: Urged to reduce pump price of unleaded fuel.

Oil firms ask for 4p tax cut to boost unleaded fuel sales

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

Oil companies are urging the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make another 4p cut in the tax on unleaded petrol to revive sales of the cleaner fuel.

Mr John Major has been told by the industry that sales of unleaded fuel are not expected to maintain the rate of growth achieved last year without further tax incentives. Sales grew by just one percentage point in the last quarter of 1989, bringing the number of motorists who have switched to just over 29 per cent.

Executives from Texaco, which

sells about 10 per cent of petrol in Britain, say widespread confusion over unleaded fuel and the environmental issue are proving a stumbling block in the battle to persuade more motorists to switch products.

Their warning coincides with demands from environmentalists and Britain's biggest motoring organization for tax incentives to encourage motorists to buy new cars with catalytic converters. These reduce toxic emissions from engine exhausts by 90 per cent and run only on unleaded petrol.

The Automobile Association called for the 10 per cent car tax to be cut or abolished for motorists

who switch to cars with converters. That could mean savings of as much as £2,000 on top-price Saabs, Volvos, Rovers and Fords offering the converter.

Mr Simon Dyer, the AA's director-general, said: "The car tax puts 10 per cent on the price of a car. If it was dropped, the saving would enable buyers easily to pay the extra cost of a catalytic converter."

In Switzerland, Austria and West Germany motorists enjoy tax reductions of up to £390 when they buy cars with the new converter equipment.

Most manufacturers are offering cars with converters, although they charge anything from £200 to

£2,200 for the device. Only Audi, the German motor manufacturer, offers all its models with converters as standard in this country.

Oil companies say that any measure which encourages motorists to buy cars with catalytic converters, before European Community legislation makes them compulsory in 1993, would also promote sales of unleaded fuel, as they only operate on cleaner petrol. It would also eliminate confusion among drivers.

Mr Roger Colomb, managing director of Texaco, said last night: "There was an explosion of interest in using unleaded fuel after the last Budget when the differential with

four-star leaded was increased to 10p.

"But in the last few weeks, we have witnessed a substantial slowdown in growth, which indicates that more must be done to keep up the impetus of the change to cleaner fuels."

If Mr Major accepts the oil companies' advice, the AA says the price of a gallon of ordinary unleaded petrol could be cut from £173.3p to £169.3p, while the average price of four-star leaded fuel would remain at £185.2p.

Virtually all new cars on the market can use unleaded fuel and about 15 million older models could be converted with a minor

adjustment, including cars from major manufacturers such as Rover, Ford and Vauxhall.

Mr Colomb said: "We have found in surveys that six out of 10 motorists do not know whether their cars can use unleaded or not. We want to make motorists aware of the financial savings they can make using this fuel, and that may mean another tax cut is needed."

Meanwhile, the Government has demanded that petrol firms allocate pumps solely for dispensing unleaded petrol after criticism that the present dual pumps lead to mistakes among drivers who are not sure which fuel they are using. The order takes effect from April 1.

Big-spending Tory councils face poll tax levies penalty

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Staunchly Conservative shire counties could be among the local authorities penalized for overspending by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, with a compulsory cap on their community charge.

Officials have told Mr Patten that the move to penalize high-spending Labour city councils might also affect a Conservative county, such as East Sussex, which is planning a 16 per cent increase in its spending.

By law, Mr Patten's powers to impose capping have to be drafted according to general formulae, forbidding him from singling out individual authorities for punishment.

However, he could use different criteria for London boroughs and metropolitan districts, and counties.

Such a move would fuel political opposition on the grounds of discrimination against authorities with urban problems.

Mr Patten's predecessors ran into trouble with the formulae used for rate-capping when they trapped such

paragons of local Conservatism as Portsmouth district council as well as Labour Lambeth and Camden councils, London.

If he decides to cap poll tax levies, councils most affected would be those which are not just increasing their expenditure in 1990-91, compared with the present financial year, but also spending in excess of the amount calculated by Whitehall as the maximum they need to spend to provide schools, street cleaning and other services.

A formula based on "need to spend" would certainly catch a number of Labour-controlled London boroughs and big city councils, such as Manchester, whose spending plans have recently been singled out by ministers.

However, because their budgets are already high, they might be immune to a charge of increasing their spending by too much next year.

Some counties are budgeting to increase their spending by considerable proportions. East Sussex, which has a Conservative majority, is

planning to spend about 16 per cent more in 1990-91. Rock-solid Conservative Kent is projecting a 15 per cent increase in spending.

However, Kent will still end up spending less than the maximum specified by Whitehall for its spending needs. East Sussex may spend about 4 per cent more.

Surrey's projected budget of £485 million next year would put it at 8.5 per cent, about the "standard spending assessment" ordained by Whitehall, while Hertfordshire will be 6 per cent in excess.

These figures translate in extra poll tax payments of £40 an adult in Hertfordshire and £50 an adult in Surrey.

For the first time, householders will be able to see the difference in spending between county and district councils on their bills.

The Government has stipulated that poll tax bills disclose the difference between spending and Whitehall's assessment. The likely excesses are worrying county councillors, who fear they have not been able to explain why they appear to be "over-spending".

The Conservative-dominated Association of County Councils has criticized the Government for making insufficient allowance both for inflation and for wages settlements.

A spokesman said the association hoped the Government would not resort to its poll tax capping powers under the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

He said its flaws were demonstrated by the fact that so few counties were likely to be spending at the standard spending assessment level for next year.

● The police have warned that hundreds of gypsies, who are faced with paying the community charge because they live on settled sites, are likely to take to the road to avoid paying the community charge.

The exodus warning has been given to West Sussex County Council, which set up 10 official caravan sites over several years, aimed at ridding road sides of "unofficial" encampments.

The gypsies, who presently pay only £75 a year in rates for a caravan pitch, face an average poll tax bill of £320 an adult from April 1.

Mr Michael Holdsworth, county secretary for West Sussex, said he has passed on the police warning on gypsies to members of West Sussex County Council's property sub-committee, which controls the sites.

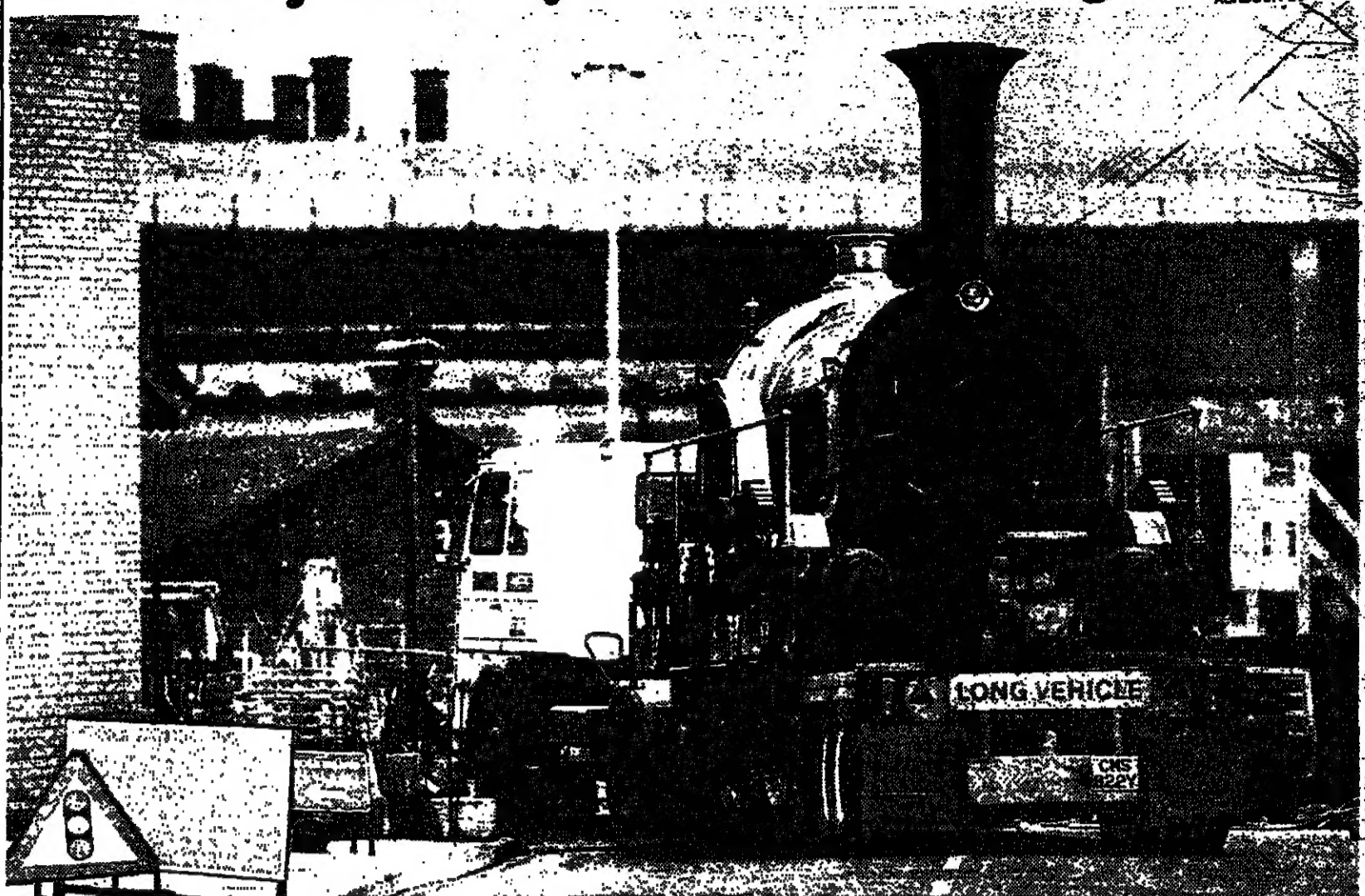
However, he said yesterday: "If the gypsies take to the road again, they will avoid the poll tax."

About 150 gypsy families presently live on the 10 official sites located throughout West Sussex.

Education, pages 34 and 35

Railway history takes to the high road

ASADOUR GIZELIAN



A working replica of Iron Duke, the Great Western Railway's 4-2-2 broad gauge locomotive, went by road in York yesterday. It was designed by Daniel Gooch for LK Brunei and was making a short journey to the National Railway Museum's new exhibition, which is to open on March 1.

Heads who fear attacks may claim anonymity on lists

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Headteachers who fear they are in danger of being attacked by angry parents in their own homes are being advised to remain anonymous on poll tax records.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the 30,000-member National Association of Headteachers (NAHT), said yesterday that one primary school head in the Midlands had successfully applied for anonymity because she feared for her safety.

He said: "I am sure there will be others. It is a fact of life that some heads and deputies genuinely fear that if their private addresses are available to the public they will be subjected to intimidation and violence at their homes."

Mr Hart said that if heads and deputies felt they were at risk they should apply to the community charge registration officer for their names and addresses to be removed from the register that was open to the public. If their initial applications are turned down they can appeal through the High Court.

The NAHT is also telling heads that they should only reveal information about parents if they are satisfied it is needed for educational reasons and not for collecting the poll tax.

Mr Hart said: "We believe that the information from parents has been given to schools for educational purposes and that for anybody to require it for community charge purposes would be a complete misuse of this information."

He said that the Department of the Environment had confirmed that school records were protected and were only available to duly authorized officers of the local education department.

In a letter to the NAHT the department said: "There is no requirement on the governors or the head of a school to supply any information to a community charge registration officer."

"Nor are they under any duty to supply information to the local education authority if the authority requests it purely for the purposes of passing it to a community charge registration officer."

Mr Hart said: "We have told heads that if they have any doubts at all about the reason for the request they should release the information only on the strict understanding that it is for an educational purpose and not concerned with collecting the community charge."

Education, pages 34 and 35

Survey finds bright girls lack confidence

Exams have 'built-in male bias'

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Bright girls do badly at mathematics because too many examination questions are easier for boys to understand, according to researchers.

Mr Leslie Jones, head of science at Hassenbrook School, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, and his daughter, Lesley, lecturer in mathematics education at the University of London, also say that girls are reluctant to show how clever they are for fear of being considered "square".

They say even bright girls lack confidence in their own ability and do less well than boys when questions are based on "boys subjects" such as space research and electricity.

They are able to tackle questions related to dress making or cooking more easily than the same problem dealing with the area of a metal template or a blast furnace. Boys, who are "far more confident in their own ability than girls", perform equally well in both.

Girls also appear less able to apply their knowledge than boys. These two factors could be why girls perform less well in many GCSE examinations, particularly as the questions must involve novel situations or at least some with which they may not be familiar.

Teachers should find ways of helping girls to perform as well as boys and examiners should ensure that the questions do not have a male bias, the researchers say. "Many

traditional contexts used in maths and science, which may not appear overtly masculine, have a built-in male bias."

The 87 third-year girls in the survey said they found it difficult to show how clever they were. "They talked about being thought of as 'square' or 'boring'. It was felt that you had to be well established with a group of friends before you could admit to being clever."

"Before that, it was necessary to 'play it down'. They saw a distinct difference between the situation when they were at primary school."

Linking the results of test questions with the abilities of the 160 girls and boys in the study the researchers say: "It is the 'brightest' girls who are more likely to be lacking confidence in their ability to

solve novel problems. They are the ones who would be expected to achieve 'good' results at GCSE."

When the girls were asked why they thought they were less likely to be able to answer certain questions, some said some girls were concerned that although they thought they would be able to, they might in fact fail. They did not think this would apply to boys.

Others felt that science questions would appeal more to boys who were more interested in the subject. Girls also believed that boys were more interested in practical work and did not like having to stay in their seats writing.

They initially said they thought girls were better at written work but when pressed said they liked the practical

work but not having to write up experiments.

Girls said their performance could be improved if teachers were patient and if boys stopped laughing or teasing them if they got a question wrong. The subjects should be made more interesting.

● Academics at Newcastle University are to challenge the appointment of Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, as a visiting fellow sponsored by British Nuclear Fuels.

Mr Ingham will become a part-time member of the politics department and lecture on the relationship between government and commerce. Dons, who claim the three-year appointment is a threat to academic freedom, are expected to protest when the post is considered at next month's Senate meeting.

A Newcastle spokesman for the Association of University Teachers said it was wrong for a university to accept professors from outside organizations such as BNF, which is providing £15,000 to support the post.

However, Mr Ingham will receive no payment while he is working for the Government.

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Education, pages 34 and 35

Publisher denies Rushdie decision

Viking Penguin, the British publisher of Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, has denied reports in yesterday's *Observer* that there would be no paperback edition while the late Ayatollah Khomeini's death threat on "all involved" in its publication stands (Libby Jukes writes).

Mr Bob Gregory, a spokesman for Viking Penguin, said no such "rules" had ever been conveyed to Mr Rushdie, or figured in board discussions. The company is committed in principle to publication, and its chief executive, Mr Peter Mayer, has been quoted as telling senior staff: "It's not a matter of whether we shall publish, but of when."

No date has been set for the paperback edition. The hardback, which appeared in September 1988 and won the Whitbread prize two months later, has sold over one million copies in Britain and the United States. Paperback editions usually follow between 12 and 18 months after first publication.

Holiday plea

The Prime Minister has been asked to name a bank holiday after the Queen Mother. Mr Robert Dunn, MP, has asked for a Queen Mother's Day to mark her 67 years of public service since her marriage. She will be aged 90 in August.

Marriage plan

Miss Marina Ogilvy, Princess Alexandra's pregnant daughter, is to marry her boy friend Mr Paul Mowatt, a photographer, at a register office in Kingston, Surrey, on Friday.

Medal found

A man who lost his father's military medal at school 32 years ago has been told it will be returned to his family. A metal detector located it on the site of the demolished school in Warrington, Cheshire, which Mr Alec McKinnon attended.

Parting gift

A bachelor who used an old bicycle to collect rent from his tenants has left more than £2 million in his will. Mr Ralph Dunford Sperring, of Mid-somer Norton, Avon, asked for an association to be set up to protect the tenants' rights.

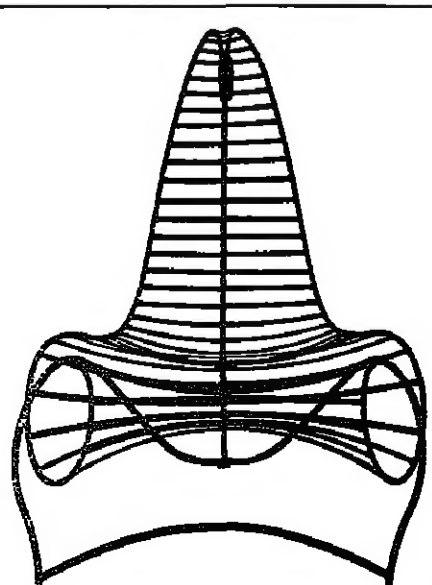
Bond winners

The winner of the £100,000 prize in the weekly Premium Bond draw announced on Saturday was the holder of 24DB 129350, who lives in Wiltshire. The £50,000 prize went to 20BK 942662, from East Lothian, and the £25,000 prize to 8EB 240302, from Devon.

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For any further information on this and other sales please telephone (01) 839 9060.

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Whitehall Brief

Inspector as hero or face-saver

A quotation: "A water quality guardian which relies on sampling results supplied by the very water companies it is monitoring would seem to be suffering a major credibility problem."

You don't have to be a householder with brown liquid running from taps to agree with that, although, oddly, it is the opening line of a profile of the new chief water inspector in this week's edition of *Water Bulletin*, an industry journal not out to criticize post-privatization arrangements.

The journal hastens to deny that anything in the pumping station's garden is in less than tiptop condition, but it cannot help leaving a sour taste, and raising questions about the ethos of Whitehall inspectors in the era of efficiency and ever closer relations with the subjects of inspection.

The fact is that the minuscule Drinking Water Inspectorate inaugurated by the Department of the Environ-

ment in a backroom in Marsham Street is rather unimpressive. With a staff of 23 (when it is up and running), it will have virtually no executive capacity.

The plan is for the privatized water concerns to monitor the quality of their own product, with the inspectorate trying to check up by looking at their books. Even *Water Bulletin* was moved to ask the new chief inspector, Mr Mike Healey, whether water companies could be trusted.

The front-line troops for sampling domestic water supplies, and the public's first port of call if taps spout foul water, are local authorities' environmental health officers. Quite where district councils fit, when Mr Healey's colleagues in other parts of the department see them as overspending and overextended, is to be seen.

Environment has special problems with the inspectorate under its purview. The National Rivers Authority (a quango); the Office

of Water Services (an independent regulator); HM Inspectorate of Pollution and the drinking water team all overlap. The pollution inspectorate, under investigation by the National Audit Office, has a long way to go before it is administratively fit.

The recent appointment of Dr Frank Feates as director will help, however, because he will command more respect among the technically qualified inspectors than his predecessor, who, rightly or wrongly, was seen as a mainstream civil servant lacking commitment to the idea of an autonomous corps of inspectors.

Questions of how independent Whitehall's inspectors can be in the new managerial circumstances will not go away. It has yet to be decided whether the Planning Inspectorate, supposedly to purvey independent advice on disputed issues of land use, can become an "executive

agency" in which payment by results is the norm.

Casting the net wider, the public might well ask whether state employees labelled "inspector" any longer bear much resemblance to those heroes of the Victorian era set to work to bring enlightenment to the world of unreformed schools.

Who, precisely, we hear Mr John Stalker ask, do HM Inspectors of Constabulary serve? Are HM Inspectors of Education agents of Mr John MacGregor's policies, or do they have some higher calling? Why not privatize the factory inspectorate, which is to say, abolish it?

Water Bulletin's concern about the new Drinking Water Inspectorate is simply justified. Is it an organization for serving the public, or the water industry, or (more likely) for insulating ministers from embarrassment when there is another poisoning incident like that at Camelford?

David Walker

Fear for hostages as Lebanon strife threatens to spread

From Juan Carlos Gammucio, west Beirut

A much-feared escalation in the war between rival Shia Muslim militias could again put the lives of the foreign hostages in grave danger, if the battles in southern Lebanon spread to the shums of Beirut, where the captives are thought to be held.

The British television journalist, John McCarthy, who was kidnapped in Beirut in 1986, was reported to be "fit and well" by *The Sunday Correspondent* newspaper yesterday. Quoting an unnamed Hezbollah guard, the paper said that Mr McCarthy was sharing a cell in a three-storey house in the southern suburbs of Beirut with Mr Thomas Sutherland, an American hostage seized in 1985. They are guarded by four militiamen.

All the other Western hostages, including Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy kidnapped three years ago, are also alive, claimed another anonymous Hezbollah source in the report. There have been numerous unsubstantiated sightings of the hostages, but Mr McCarthy's girl friend, Miss Jill Morrell, said: "It is

the most encouraging news we have had for a long time."

The Foreign Office said yesterday: "We check out all leads." Mr Allan Ramsay, the British Ambassador in Beirut, will be investigating and will get in touch with the network of contacts built up by the embassy over the years.

During the height of the artillery battles in Beirut last year, Mr Ramsay said he believed most of the hostages had been moved to the Bekaa Valley.

Although yesterday the Syrian-backed Amal militia and pro-Iranian Hezbollah appeared willing to abide by an Algerian-mediated ceasefire in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region near Sidon, there were disturbing signs the next round could be fought in the capital's southern suburbs.

Residents there spoke yesterday of an abrupt intensification of skirmishes and hit-and-run attacks in Beirut, perhaps even with the blessing of the Syrian Army, which has tried in vain to expand its control over the southern suburbs. It is in that maze of south Beirut that Mr Waite,

Mr McCarthy, Mr Brian Keenan, the Irish-born teacher, and the other Western hostages are believed to be held by Muslim extremists. An explosion of violence in the suburbs would bring the risk of death to the very doorsteps of their cells.

If they are indeed in the southern suburbs, the hostages have endured months of shelling and street battles throughout their ordeal and survived perhaps only because of the extraordinary efficiency of the security apparatus of the Hezbollah.

Mrs Jean Sutherland, the wife of the American agriculture professor kidnapped three and a half years ago, declared yesterday that the *Sunday Correspondent* report that Mr Sutherland and Mr McCarthy are "fit and well" gave her hopes, but no real expectations.

"I pray it is true," she said. "But I have learnt that you must not let rumours get you up... You get used to the rumours, they are part of the reality of Beirut. At least the last one is a nice, good rumour."

Mali welcomes Pope on West Africa tour



The Pope clapping as Animist bird dancers welcome him to Mali, where he was met yesterday by President Traoré, seen shaking hands with one of the papal party.

The Pope flew to this predominantly Muslim West African country from Guinea-Bissau. He is on a West African tour of five of the world's poorest countries, including the Cape Verde Islands, Burkina Faso and

Chad (Susan MacDonald writes). The Pope's stated wish is to demonstrate that Africa and its problems have not been forgotten at a time when all eyes have been fixed on the upheavals taking place in Eastern Europe.

He began his tour on Thursday in the rocky, windswept Cape Verde Islands off the westernmost tip of Africa. The one-party state of President Pereira is better known for its

pragmatism rather than its repression in trying to carve out a life for the 350,000 population in this ex-Portuguese colony.

But President Vieira of Guinea-Bissau is known for his execution and torture of political opponents since he seized power in a bloody coup in 1980. The worst human rights offender is President Compaore of Burkina Faso, where the Pope arrives today. He

seized power in a 1987 coup during which his predecessor, President Sankara, was assassinated.

President Traoré has for 20 years governed a country which is one of the worst hit by drought and the encroaching Sahara. Again a one-party state, his efforts to turn his desperately poor country around have been overshadowed by reports of human rights abuses and widespread corruption.

Confusion over Mandela release

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

Speculation about the release of Nelson Mandela became more extravagant at the weekend, with conflicting reports that the African National Congress leader would leave prison today; that difficulties had arisen which would delay his freedom until March; and that he had instructed his lawyers not to seek a court order for his immediate release.

After suggesting that his freedom was imminent three weeks ago, his wife, Winnie, was less optimistic after visiting him at Victor Verster prison in the western Cape on Saturday. Mrs Mandela told reporters: "I did not find him as happy as he was the last time I visited him. It is clear there are a lot of hurdles in the way."

She would not reveal the nature of the problems, but said her husband was growing impatient. "In his own words, he said, 'If I could, I would be going home with you today.'"

A local Sunday newspaper reported that President de Klerk shares Mandela's impatience to begin negotiations on constitutional reforms, and is being urged by influential government advisers to release Mandela today.

The "quick-release lobby"

is said to be arguing that, by doing so, Mr de Klerk would gain the initiative in the run-up to negotiations with black leaders and catch the ANC off balance.

It is suggested that quick action would also pre-empt arrangements being made to celebrate Mandela's release with mass demonstrations.

Violent clashes precipitated by opposition to the rebel English cricket tour have dismayed the Government by denting its reformist image, but the conflict is not considered to be a factor in the Mandela equation. "It is unfortunate, but it is unlikely to influence the timing of Mr Mandela's release," an informed source said.

● LONDON: British sanctions against South Africa are likely to be eased once Nelson Mandela is released, according to sources yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

Mrs Thatcher made it clear at the Commonwealth heads of government conference in Kuala Lumpur last October that she was in favour of the "carrot-and-stick" approach towards Pretoria. It now seems likely that some minor sanctions will be lifted later this year, provided that Mandela is freed.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Five are held over 'clinic' murders

Paris — The ironic scandal of a group of respected Marseilles doctors allegedly murdering each other in order to gain control of private hospitals dedicated to saving lives has cast a dark shadow over the city (Susan MacDonald writes). Five people have now been arrested and charged with involvement in two murders.

The respected Dr Armand Gallo, a general practitioner and local councillor, is in prison charged with organizing the murder of Dr Jean-Jacques Peschard, his equally respected friend and colleague, a surgeon and local mayor, nearly two weeks ago. He is also charged with involvement in the murder of Léonore Mout, the owner of a well-known private clinic in Marseilles, who was shot dead in his car in 1988.

With Dr Gallo behind bars are two alleged regulars of the Marseilles underworld.

Also caught in a police net are M Marc Galeazzi, who ran Mout's clinic, and M Jean Chouraqui, the millionaire owner of three private Marseilles clinics, who is charged with organizing Mout's murder.

Kashmir press curbs

Srinagar (Reuter) — Foreign correspondents were expelled yesterday from Kashmir, where a Muslim cleric said 150 people had been killed over the past two weeks in an Islamic revolt against Indian rule. "For reasons of state security, you are to leave Jammu and Kashmir immediately... under the public safety Act," said a written notice from Mr G. H. Abbas, the district magistrate, handed to non-Indian reporters for foreign media at Srinagar's main hotel.

The order was issued on Saturday as India launched a diplomatic offensive to persuade the world that Pakistan is fuelling Islamic militancy in the states of Jammu and Kashmir.

Leading article, page 13

New air crash claims

New York (Reuter) — The crew of the Colombian plane which crashed outside New York City after being put on hold for 90 minutes told controllers they were running out of fuel almost an hour before the aircraft went down, killing 73 people, US government investigators said. The head of a National Transportation Safety Board team said the plane was put on hold on Thursday night in three separate places because rain and fog had caused congestion over John F. Kennedy airport.

Subway crimes grow

New York — Mr Bernhard Goetz, who gained fame when he shot four black teenagers he thought were robbing him on the New York subway in 1984, is being asked for his expert opinion as crime and homelessness soar and subway vigilantism comes back in vogue (James Bone writes).

In the latest incident over the weekend, a subway passenger shot and killed one man and wounded two others after the three, who witnesses said were "looking for trouble", bumped into him.

Polish party splinters into three warring factions

From A Correspondent, Warsaw

The Polish communist party, at its final congress, has split into three warring factions over what type of group — or groups — should succeed it. Mr Tadeusz Fiszbach, a leading liberal communist, walked out on Saturday night from the founding congress of a new party which is to replace the Polish United Workers' (communist) Party (PUWP).

But he returned to speak yesterday morning and to prompt the three-way split by founding a new party, the Social Democratic Union. A 14-member steering committee was formed and 89 delegates promptly signed up. Another group, calling itself the Social Democratic Bloc, insisted that the communists' successor party adopt a liberal programme based on Western democratic ideals.

"If the congress rejects the social democratic option, then the bloc does not see a place for itself in the new PUWP party," said its leader, Mr Zbigniew Siemiatkowski.

The communist party, led by Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, decided overwhelmingly on Saturday night to suspend its operations, but it did not dissolve itself outright as expected because of concern over the disposition of its vast

assets. Reformers who wanted a clean break with the past were angrily shouted down, and one liberal spokesman who tried to point out the dangers to the party's image was not allowed to finish his speech.

A congress source said another liberal, Mr Marcin Krol, also protested at the divided atmosphere and left for his home town of Poznan.

The disruptions inside were mirrored elsewhere in the country. For the first time since the formation of the Solidarity-led Government last August, police attacked a crowd of demonstrators, who



Mr Rakowski: Told congress that the party was finished.

were chanting "Down with the communists", when they pressed close to delegates leaving the Palace of Culture, Stalin's gift to Poland, for a lunch break.

Several people were injured, including Mr Krystof Karowski, a spokesman for the once banned Polish Socialist Party.

In Gdansk, the birthplace of Solidarity, some 70 youths yesterday broke into the party headquarters and found several party workers barricaded in a room burning a pile of party documents.

Two Solidarity MPs, Mr Czeslaw Nowak and Mr Edmund Krassowski, later arrived on the scene, where the activists retrieved a few sacks of shredded documents and some that were not completely burned. The activists are demanding that the building be turned over to Gdansk University or be made a home for the elderly.

In another development that reveals the depth of Polish hatred for communism, some 1,000 onlookers cheered and applauded in Gdansk on Saturday as the name "Lenin" was removed from above the main gate of the Lenin Shipyard, where the victorious Solidarity move-



Polish riot police clashing with anti-communist demonstrators as delegates were leaving the party's final congress held in the Warsaw Palace of Culture.

ment was born. The yard's Solidarity committee decided to "remove the symbol of a distorted idea".

It would restore the yard's old name — Gdansk Shipyard

— as part of its transformation into a joint-stock company.

Four veteran shipyard workers who took part in the 1980 strikes that created Solidarity used a blowtorch to

shear off, one by one, the huge metal letters in Lenin's name.

Father Henryk Jankowski, the priest of the Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa, personally removed the dot

atop the "i". At the same time, a lorry hauled away Lenin's bust from the so-called work safety room.

This is the large hall where the Gdansk accords were

hammered out that led to the creation of the Eastern bloc's first independent trade union.

As the lorry drove off, sirens sounded and the crowd chanted: "Solidarity".

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Israel discusses East Berlin link

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Israeli and East German officials met yesterday for secret talks on the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Israeli officials hope that newly democratised East Germany will follow the example set by West Germany long ago and accept some responsibility for the extermination of Jews under Hitler. This in turn would lead to the payment by East Germany of reparations to the Jewish state in compensation to survivors of the Holocaust.

Announcing the talks, which are being held in a "European country" — said by Israeli sources to be Denmark — Mr Binyamin Netanyahu, the Deputy Foreign Minister, said the question of "historical responsibility for the Holocaust" had to be resolved.

The Foreign Ministry confirmed that Israel was represented in the negotiations by Mr Michael Shilo, senior adviser to Mr Moshe Arens, the Foreign Minister. Mr Netanyahu said Israel had been approached by East Germany, which had asked for a meeting on both the question of diplomatic links and historical responsibility for the crimes of the Nazi regime.

A series of East European countries have queued up recently to reopen ties with Israel after the changes in the Soviet bloc. All Soviet bloc countries except Romania broke off relations in 1967 at the time of the Six-Day War. Next month the Hungarian Prime Minister is to visit Israel, and Czechoslovakia and Poland have declared their intention to restore relations.

Last week a high-level Soviet delegation visited Israel to sign new trade agreements, although Moscow has stopped short of resuming diplomatic links at the highest level. Diplomats say this is to

gain leverage over Israel in the Middle East peace process, with the Soviet Union holding out the promise of resumed links if Israel makes political concessions on the Palestinian question.

East Germany is a special case in the Soviet bloc, partly because it never has established links with the Jewish state, and partly because its communist regime consistently refused to admit that the East German state was in any sense a successor state to the Third Reich.

The Israeli daily newspaper *Maariv* yesterday pointed to another important consequence of the East European approaches to Israel, namely loss of support in Eastern Europe for the Palestine Liberation Organization. The newspaper said: "When the Berlin Wall fell, much of the defence and diplomatic support given to the Arab world by Eastern Europe over the past decades crumbled as well."

Maariv said Syria, the PLO "and other Palestinian terrorist groups" had been particularly badly affected. It said that the fatigues worn by Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, "and other terrorists" had been supplied by Romania, and that the Soviet Union had been the main supplier of arms to the PLO through its East European allies, above all East Germany. "East Germany was an accepted route, which caused West Germany considerable headaches, especially in West Berlin," the paper said.

It added that the changes in Eastern Europe had also affected supplies of weapons from Eastern Europe, and especially from East Germany and Czechoslovakia, to terrorist groups of one kind or another operating in Western Europe.

New Forum splits over policy switch

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

New Forum, East Germany's leading opposition group, radically changed its stance on key issues yesterday, declaring its support for reunification and the speedy introduction of a market economy.

At a conference held in East Berlin to decide the organization's electoral package, delegates voted by a majority to accept the new pragmatic line to restore the organization to public prominence.

But the shift looks likely to cause a serious split within the 150,000-strong group. Herr Reinhard Schult and Frau Ingrid Köppe, two of New Forum's three representatives at the round-table talks, said they were not prepared to promote the new programme.

Herr Schult accused New Forum of "capitulating on its own promises" and left the hall accompanied by Frau Köppe and other supporters of the old policies.

New Forum has previously rejected reunification as a "sell-out of the GDR" and has taken a cautious line on proposals to introduce a market economy into the country.

Professor Jens Reich, one of the organization's founders, told the conference that it had to chart a new course to stave off an economic collapse in

East Germany. About 12,000 East Germans are still leaving for the West every week.

"Our country is bleeding," Professor Reich said. "When the collapse comes, it will come suddenly and we will all be to blame for not having acted decisively in time."

New Forum has so far resisted forming a party to maintain a wide base of support in the population.

As New Forum began to tear itself apart, the country's right-wing parties yesterday made the first moves towards forming a unified party. The Christian Democrats, along with the German Social Union and Democratic Awakening, said they intended to form a coalition to challenge the Social Democrats in May.

Talks began last night on the formation of a coalition government to cover the period until the elections between Herr Hans Modrow, the Prime Minister, and the combined opposition groups.

Herr Erich Honecker, the former leader who "faces a treason charge, is to be released today from hospital, where he has been operated on for a kidney tumour. Sources within the Ministry of Justice said he would convalesce in a high-security hospital."

CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Soviet reformers aim to renew communism from within

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Representatives of party organizations from all over the Soviet Union have launched a reformist faction which could split the party or form the basis of an entirely new Communist Party.

The "Democratic Platform", as the new group is called, was set up in the belief that, unless the party can transform itself from within, its prospects of surviving as a political force are bleak.

It was formed last week at a meeting of more than 1,200 people representing Communist Party clubs — that is, special interest, sport and hobby clubs for predominantly young party members — in more than 100 Soviet cities. The meeting, held in Moscow, named a coordinating committee which includes Mr Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, the rector of the city's Higher Party School, the training ground for senior party officials. Although it has long been apparent

that the Communist Party contains factional groupings, united around particular policies or personalities, this is probably the first time since the 1920s that such a grouping has put itself on a formal footing and adopted a specific programme.

The reformist Inter-Regional Group — led by Mr Boris Yeltsin and, until his death, by Dr Andrei Sakharov — operates within the elected Congress of People's Deputies, but comprises many non-Communists and is not an organized group within the party.

The Democratic Platform reflects a growing impatience in some sections of the party with the continued hold of old-style functionaries and methods. It aims to campaign for faster political reform inside the party which, it says, has been proceeding much more slowly than had been envisaged at the special party conference in June 1988.

It wants more formal groups,

representing particular interests and policies, to identify themselves within the party so that competing policies can be discussed openly, and has no objection in principle to a multi-party system within the Soviet Union.

Delegates to last week's conference are reported to have been particularly critical of the closed manner in which the party continues to operate and questioned why proceedings of Central Committee plenums are still not published as a matter of course.

Proceedings of the December plenum at which President Gorbachev reportedly offered to resign have not appeared in print. In defence of such closed sessions, it is argued that they foster franker debate than would be possible "on the record".

The first task the Democratic Platform has set itself is to campaign for a change in the way delegates to the party congress in October are selected. These are the

people who will choose the new Central Committee — a body which in its current composition is seen as more retrogressive in its views than the Politburo and a brake on reform.

Mr Shostakovskiy argues that the present system of party elections only preserves existing officials in power: the primary party organization elects representatives, who in turn elect the next group of representatives and so on until the delegates themselves are selected — by which time all "undesirables" have been filtered out. He wants delegates to be directly elected, by secret ballot, by members of the constituency party.

As the delegate system of election lies at the heart of their power, or hope of future office, few existing officials will have an interest in seeing it dismantled. If the Democratic Platform has as much grassroots support as its leaders believe, the next few months could see repeated conflict between rank-and-file party

members in the provinces and officials desperate to preserve their fiefdoms.

According to Mr Shostakovskiy, the rot set in as early as the 1920s, when the party departed from the principle that all members were equal and became a hierarchical organization in which it became possible to talk of party "generals" and an "officer corps".

The task may not be impossible, however, as the first secretaries of Volgograd, Khabarovsk and the oil-producing region of Tyumen — all three regarded as well entrenched — have fallen in recent weeks, largely as a result of pressure "from below".

Mr Shostakovskiy acknowledged in an interview with the party's youth newspaper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, that the new group could lead to a split in the party, but said that would depend largely on its strength and whether any counter-movement emerged.

He said, however, that unless the

character of the party changed quickly many of its most active and honest members would leave after the next congress. "This is the party's last chance," he said. Some commentators have gone so far as to suggest that how the party prepares for its 18th congress in October will determine whether there will be a 19th congress at all.

It is hard to judge what attitude President Gorbachev would take to the appearance of the Democratic Platform. On the one hand, as General Secretary of the Communist Party and guardian of its authority, he has scorned calls for a multi-party system; on the other, he has appeared to advocate keener debate, faster reform and more openness within the party, at least at local level.

It is even possible the new faction could be a kite-flying exercise, to allow the top leadership to gauge demand for change at local level through some body other than the Central Committee.

Huge protest puts Romanian leaders under siege

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Post-revolutionary Romania slipped closer to anarchy yesterday when about 40,000 people staged an illegal rally demanding the resignation of the ruling National Salvation Front, which was branded as a cover for Moscow-backed Communists. There was also a much smaller counter-demonstration by workers brought in by the Front.

Parts of the capital appeared out of control as darkness fell, with mobs of pro-government and anti-government marchers demonstrating in different areas while thousands of the original protesters besieged the Front's headquarters. Anti-government feeling was also reported to be running high in many regional centres.

Earlier, in scenes reminiscent of the build-up to the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu, the executed former leader, students painted over many of the wall slogans denouncing his tyranny with their new battle cry: "Jos FSN" ("Down with the National Salvation Front").

During yesterday afternoon the mob broke through the cordon of tanks and armed soldiers ringing the Front's temporary offices in the Foreign Ministry building. Military reinforcements were rushed to the scene to prevent them getting inside.

Standing ankle-deep in thick, freezing mud, the crowd chanted "Resign, resign" and called for the dismissal of President Iliescu, the interim leader, who is a personal friend of President Gorbachev who, many Romanians claim, engineered the Front's takeover of power.

Among the sea of hostile posters were many equating Mr Iliescu with Stalin and Ceausescu. Others took up the central theme of the protest — that the 145-member Front is nothing but the old Romanian Communist Party in a new guise. Many reflected the fear of Romanians that they are still to be denied Western-style democracy and a free-market economy.

The early festive mood of yesterday's demonstration, or-

ganized by the main opposition parties in direct contravention of new Front regulations, turned ugly as several thousand protesters broke through the army cordon around the Front's headquarters. Soldiers and policemen seemed perplexed about how to react. At one point a lorry-load of police gave the anti-government demonstrators' victory signs.

By 5 p.m. some 600 soldiers were standing four-deep on the Foreign Ministry steps keeping back the shouting mob by building a human wall. The heavy machine-guns on top of their armoured



Mr Iliescu: Hostile posters equated him with Ceausescu.

personnel carriers were pointing symbolically skywards, but there were persistent fears of renewed violence.

At one stage the demonstrators clambered on top of tanks ringing the building as Mr Iliescu held crisis talks with opposition party leaders inside in an attempt to hammer out a compromise which would enable the mob to disperse without bloodshed.

"The Front will be gone today, do not be afraid," the crowd shouted, waving huge Romanian flags with holes cut in the middle, the main symbol of the anti-communist revolution. As government supporters were hastily driven into the capital from surrounding factories, the anti-

government crowd cried: "We will not leave". Professor Davinia Bracanu, a chemistry teacher who was demonstrating with her husband, said: "We do not want perestroika here. We do not want reformed communism. We want to build a completely new democracy. You tell the world that our students did not shed their blood for perestroika."

The size of the demonstration appeared to take the Front by surprise. At one point Mr Iliescu was shouted down when he tried to speak from a balcony.

The demonstration was initially provoked by the Front's controversial decision to put up its own candidates in the May general election. Feelings were additionally aroused when the interim Government announced strict new rules restricting demonstrations to four Bucharest parks and introducing jail terms of up to five years for those insulting members of the police or army.

As students and new party members walked arm in arm down Bucharest's central avenue yesterday, past shrines for the dead of December at which hundreds of candles still flicker night and day, they carried banners declaring poignantly: "Our heroes did not die in the parks".

In diplomatic circles, there are serious doubts that the Front, an *ad hoc* amalgam of old Communists, military men, writers and others can survive in its present form.

The most likely alternative is thought to be a more broadly based coalition of interest groups which would attempt to return the country to normality in preparation for the elections.

The pro-Front demonstrators were mostly workers. Some carried banners claiming that the Front had been born in a hail of bullets. They shouted abuse at the anti-government demonstrators, who jeered back, many using a favourite jibe: "You do not speak Romanian, you speak Russian".



Some of the tens of thousands of Romanians who protested illegally in Victory Square, Bucharest, yesterday against the ruling National Salvation Front.

Ceausescu's top men face rough justice

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

The crumpled, forlorn and desperate features of the four top Ceausescu henchmen facing trial inside Bucharest's Military Academy tell more about the victory of the revolution than the confused evidence being presented about the brutal way in which they tried to defeat it.

Although none shows any outward signs of mistreatment, they all seem psychologically broken, hardly able to look each other in the face and not daring to look at the seats in the wood-paneled court where the public sits.

A man like Mr Tudor Postelnicu, the corpulent former Interior Minister who less than six weeks ago ran the ruthless Securitate network,

often sobbed like a child, and no one who saw the misery etched on his face is ever likely to forget it.

Mr Emil Bobo, the Secretary-General of the Communist Party's Central Committee, another defendant, looked every inch the civil, uneducated toady of the dictator he has been made out to be by the revolutionaries and even by Mr Manea Manescu, the former Vice-President, a co-accused.

Although Romanian television has been showing repeats of *Judgment at Nuremberg*, the film starring Spencer Tracy and Marlene Dietrich, the Bucharest trials have none of the professionalism or legal resources which marked the

prosecution of Nazi war criminals. Without a jury and with only vague charges, they also lack a feeling of legal fairness.

During Saturday's three-hour opening session proceedings often went at a snail's pace because of the absence of a stenographer. As a result, every detail had to be recorded by a flustered official writing furiously in longhand.

The nervousness about security which characterizes the interim Government was everywhere in evidence as the defendants arrived. The first of them to give evidence was Mr Ion Dinka, aged 62, the former Deputy Prime Minister, who said he would have been sacked and murdered if he had opposed Ceausescu's

order to shoot demonstrators in Timisoara.

The 100 foreign newsmen allowed into the court heard his evidence through translating machines. At key moments, such as when another defendant claimed angrily that shorthand accounts of Politburo meetings had been doctored, the translation system mysteriously broke down.

Although the court lacks legal skills and the evidence has been ineptly gathered, there was no lack of drama.

The high spot came when Mr Dinka told how Ceausescu had threatened on December 17 to resign if his wishes for the use of live ammunition were not supported. "Please elect another General Sec-

retary if you disagree with me," the dictator told leading party men, who promptly rallied to support him.

The only man to emerge with distinction from the account of the tragic events was General Vasile Milea, the late Defence Minister, who told Ceausescu bluntly that nothing in army regulations sanctioned shooting the people.

The general died in mysterious circumstances on December 21, by his own hand according to the dictator, but shot personally by Ceausescu, many Romanians believe.

Mr Dinka admitted complicity in the crime of genocide by letting the decision to fire on the crowds pass without opposition.

Hurd rules out 'premature' cuts in UK defence spending

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, and Ian Murray in Bonn

The Government will not be rushed into making premature cuts in defence spending, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday before flying to Washington to see President Bush and senior US officials.

The US is reported to be on the point of announcing withdrawal of 15,000 men from West Germany as fears grow in the NATO secretariat of a rush by Allied governments to save money and win popularity by bringing home troops.

Mr Hurd's firm statement, on BBC Radio's *The World This Week*, was clearly intended to quash reports that the Ministry of Defence was also considering big reductions in its military commitments in response to the moves by Warsaw Pact countries to transform their defence policies and to send

home Soviet troops. Unilateral withdrawals by the Allies are making the agenda for the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna — agreed last March — increasingly outmoded.

Last week Belgium and The Netherlands said they were ready to withdraw from West Germany, Belgium theoretically stations 25,000 men in the country, though recently it has followed the Dutch example and saved expense by keeping many at home.

If the Belgian troops leave, Canada can be expected to want its 6,000 men pulled back across the Atlantic. It will be even more anxious to do so if the United States really is starting to cut back its 250,000-strong garrison in West Germany before the Vienna talks end.

Yesterday's unsourced but

undisputed report in the newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* claimed that the official announcement of the American withdrawal would be made later this week and that the explanation would be that the men involved are those no longer needed to operate the dismantled medium-range Pershing and cruise missiles.

However, the report says, only 2,000 men were needed for that — more than seven times fewer than are actually to be withdrawn.

President Bush has already said he intends asking Congress to restructure US defences. Today he will unveil proposals for a new defence budget calling for a cut of 38,000 in forces personnel and the closure of more than 100 bases to save 2 per cent in real terms on spending last year.

Greek politicians have con-

firmed that the US has decided to close two of its four main military bases there. It is understood that consultations were going ahead in Bonn this week about closing or substantially reducing the bases at Neu-Ulm, Schwäbisch Gmünd, and Heilbronn — all medium-range rocket



Mr Hurd: Stability needed before spending is reduced.

sites — as well as at Sembach and Pirmasens.

West Germany, which has Nato's largest conventional force of 495,000, has agreed to cut down to 420,000 over the next five years and the Government is facing mounting pressure to go down to 350,000, or even 300,000, by the end of the century.

Defence spending is increasingly unpopular and the Social Democratic opposition has now been joined by the Free Democrats in calling for abandonment of the European fighter aircraft project.

Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Christian Democrat Defence Minister, last week confirmed West Germany's present loyalty to Nato. In an interview with *Die Welt* he said, however, that this could change if there was the prospect of a single federal Ger-

man state. He added, however, that in the long term he still believed that West Germany had a crucial interest in defence and foreign policy in the Atlantic Alliance and in the presence of American troops in Europe.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the former West German Defence Minister who is now Nato Secretary-General, said at the weekend in an interview with the Dutch newspaper, *Het Parool*, that he totally opposed unilateral reductions.

In Britain last week, Labour's National Executive said the Government was doing nothing to respond to the changes in Eastern Europe. But ministers believe it is too early to cut defence spending.

During his three-day trip to Washington, Mr Hurd will outline the Government's view that the West should be

cautious until Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have become politically and economically stable.

Senior Whitehall sources said yesterday that the Prime Minister and Mr Hurd, along with Mr John Major, the Chancellor, and Mr Tom King, the Defence Secretary, were "in complete agreement" over the need to maintain defence spending at the present level of £20 billion a year for the time being.

The Whitehall sources admitted that Treasury officials had asked the Ministry of Defence to consider making cuts because of the reduced East-West threat. But the memoirs, letters and departmental discussions were "just part of the usual attempt by the Treasury at this time of year to get all departments to cut back", one source said.

Saarland setback for Kohl

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democratic Prime Minister of the Saarland, led his party to a comprehensive overall victory in the state elections there yesterday.

According to first computer predictions of the result, the party trounced the Christian Democrats of Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, taking 53.9 per cent of the vote against 33.8 per cent for the list led by Herr Klaus Töpfer, the Environment Minister in the federal Government.

The result means that Herr Lafontaine is virtually certain to be the Social Democratic candidate for the post of Chancellor in the West German general election in December.

In yesterday's poll the party's share of the vote was up 4.7 per cent on five years ago, while the Christian Democrats slumped by 3.5 per cent. The Free Democrats, junior partners in the federal coalition Government, only just managed to cross the 5 per cent threshold needed to be allocated seats. The Greens, with 2.5 per cent, and the radical right-wing Republicans, with 3.5 per cent, both failed to attain this goal.

The Social Democrats will now have 30 of the seats in the Saarland parliament, while the Christian Democrats will hold 18, and the Free Democrats just three.

Herr Lafontaine has spoken out against allowing the present flow of East German refugees in unless they first have a job and a home.

US bases in Europe at risk as Bush unveils 'peace' budget

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

Negotiations over the future of US bases in Europe enter a critical phase today with the publication of President Bush's budget proposals.

Only \$6 billion, about one sixth of the President's planned \$36.5 billion in deficit cuts, will be demanded from the Pentagon in 1991. Three times as much will be asked of public, medical and housing programmes.

Although the Defence Department is offering an almost unprecedented budget proposal, which is reduced in real terms, this is unlikely to satisfy congressional demands for an instant "peace dividend" from the demise of communism.

The US Defence Secretary, Mr

Richard Cheney, will face angry congressmen later today to tell them of more than 100 home bases — with large job losses in many cases — which are due to be closed as a result of the cuts. Substantial cutbacks in overseas commitments are expected, too.

But as negotiations continue over the coming weeks the Pentagon may have to dig deeper into its resources abroad in order to win support for domestic base closures. A number of important bases in Britain, as well as strategic weapons systems, could then be at risk.

Today's presidential budget — the annual first stage in the confrontation between the White House and Capitol Hill which characterizes the US public finance system — is the first to bear the full mark of Mr George Bush. Last

year's was merely a minor adjustment of the Reagan legacy.

It is expected to call for the spending of \$1.23 trillion, the receipt of \$1.17 trillion and a deficit of \$63.1 billion, just inside the limits demanded by the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law. It has already invoked the usual scepticism which White House budgets have come to attract.

Its projection of a 3 per cent increase in spending has to be set beside the 6 per cent increase which occurred in 1988 and 7.5 per cent in 1989. Congressional critics also point to the "optimistic" 9 per cent increase in revenues.

This year both parties are looking for more money for domestic programmes, not less. The Defence Secretary is the man in the firing line. Pentagon spending is planned

to rise to \$292.1 billion from \$286.8, an increase of \$5.3 billion. Mr Cheney will argue that this is a \$6 billion cut in what would be demanded by full adjustment for inflation. Two army divisions, totalling 30,000 men, are to be cut. His critics are already out for more.

The President has taken an unusual risk in allowing his abrasive budget director, Mr Richard Darman, to write a personal introduction to today's proposals in which he calls the budget "the ultimate cookie monster", career-long around unmercifully dropping crumbs.

The reference to the character in the educational television programme, *Sesame Street*, as not gone down well with congressmen, many of whom think that Mr Darman has long been too prone to treat

them like children.

Mr Darman's introductory essay also speaks of the hidden "Pac Men" who threaten the integrity of the budget process. This reference to the bar-room electronics of the early 1980s is designed to draw attention to the \$150 billion of hidden public liabilities which will be eating each other up in the battle for funds over the next 30 years.

These include the rising cost of health care programmes, and social security benefits (items initiated as part of the "peace dividend" after the Vietnam War), the need to clear up nuclear waste sites and federal loan guarantees to farmers.

According to Mr Darman, Congress has "an obligation to be serious". He says that, after eight years of consecutive economic growth, the deficit seems "at worst

to have stabilized".

"Washington entertains the notion of spending 50 times a dividend that has not yet definitely materialized — a truly Wonderland phenomenon," he writes.

The clear message is that excessive congressional demands will destroy growth and endanger US interests.

The President has a number of sweeteners for public opinion, including an estimated \$2 billion over the next decade for the annual planting of one billion trees — \$175 million for the forest service to help it hold back global warming is expected to be included in today's announcement. There will also be more money for space travel, science research and pre-school programmes for the poor.

Leading article, page 13

Li Peng may be massacre scapegoat

From Catherine Sampson
Peking

Chinese and foreign observers have speculated that Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, may be sacrificed to save the image of the Communist Party.

After the June 4 massacre, Peking people have focused their hatred on Mr Li, despite the fact that he must share responsibility for the bloodshed with others, notably Mr Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, and President Yang. Many Chinese believe that Mr Deng would be happy to see Mr Li become a scapegoat.

Diplomats believe the Chinese are trying to please the West, and that dumping the unpopular Mr Li would help. He was seen several times on Western television sneering at students and ranting in support of martial law.

Disgracing Mr Li would also, to some extent, disarm Chinese opposition. However, unless the Chinese were to do an about-turn and condemn the massacre (which they cannot do because of the implications for other leaders), they will have to get rid of Mr Li in a graceful manner. They may do this by giving him a less influential post.

Such a reshuffle would take place at the annual meeting of Parliament, the national People's Congress, in the spring. Analysts expect that a reshuffle would involve purging liberals in high positions.

Addressing the nation on



Promoting a human face: Mr Li Peng, surrounded by armed policemen, lifting up a young boy during his tour of Peking's Tiananmen Square on Saturday.

Chinese New Year at the weekend, Mr Li said the next six months were "crucial" to stability in China. Although his speech was positive, his concern about the next few months reflects a deepening malaise among the leadership about how long the Chinese people will knuckle under.

Mr Li described China's political and economic situation as "stable". But students have taken heart from the

democratic movement in Romania, and workers are ready to strike about the layoffs and slashed wage packets which have resulted from the austerity programme.

While the in-fighting of China's leadership is closed to the outside world, rumours are spreading of high-level arguments about the future of Mr Li. Those looking on from the outside can only take their clues from Chinese media

coverage. At the televised new year cabaret, for instance, Mr Jiang Zemin, the Communist Party chief, was shown shaking hands with a line of performers. Mr Li was shown only in the background, obscured by Mr Jiang. But Mr Li is fighting for his political life.

On Chinese New Year's Day, Mr Li was featured on the evening television news trying to find and promote a human face. In an electioneer-

ing style rarely adopted in Peking, he was filmed on a walkabout in Tiananmen Square, hugging children and clapping hands.

● **Bishops held:** Twelve Chinese Catholic bishops, including a Second World War hero, have been arrested as part of a new drive by China's Communist rulers against the underground Catholic church, Church sources said yesterday (Reuters reports). The clerics,

in their seventies or eighties, were rounded up last month in a sweep of arrests in Tianjin city and Shaanxi, Gansu, Hebei, and Inner Mongolia regions, one source said.

The arrests formed part of moves by the Communists against the underground Catholic Church, which follows the Vatican teaching. The Government has accused the Vatican of appointing bishops secretly.

Jackson faces crucial choice for his future

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

The Rev Jesse Jackson, for 10 years the star in the firmament of black American politics, is this week wondering how long he can survive without coming down to earth.

The disgrace of his ally, Mayor Marion Barry of Washington, gives him the opportunity to become an ordinary politician, to rebut the common charge that he can run nothing more complex than his own public relations machine. Victory in November's race to become mayor of the nation's capital would allow him to rejoin the mainstream of black politics.

It would not necessarily be an easy remarriage with reality. Although the Barry political machine would like Mr Jackson to take over, many of Mayor Barry's supporters in the street have not abandoned their leader.

The Washington Afro-American, a leading black newspaper in the capital, entitled its editorial at the weekend "Barry, hang in there". Its main front page story referred menacingly to the woman who lured the mayor into a police trap: "Barry beauty marked for murder". Probably, however, the mayor will be forced to resign. Mr Jackson could almost certainly succeed him if he so chose.

The two-time presidential failure could then stand alongside the heroes of last year's success stories, Mayor Dinkins of New York and Governor Wilder of Virginia.

To replace the drug-taking mayor of America's most violent city would, however, risk coming down from the stars with a very big bump. The job would replace rapacious receptions in Third World palaces with responsibility for hundreds of rotting schools and ruined roads.

It might not stop him running for President in 1992. He could still tease the Democrat leadership by trading support for his campaign to make the District of Columbia a separate state for his willingness to take a back seat in the next White House race. But it would mark an end to his peculiar personal strategy for taking black power non-stop to the White House.

This is a strategy which has made its creator an international celebrity. This week

he sets off for South Africa where he hopes to be able to greet Nelson Mandela as he leaves jail. As more and more black politicians have won office throughout the country (there are today some 7,000 elected black officials in the US compared to 1,500 two decades ago) it has also made him appear arrogant, outmoded and irrelevant.

Since the end of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, black politics has always been a mixture of ordinary mayoral administration and the charismatic legacy of Martin Luther King. The latter, thanks to Mr Jackson, has had more attention than the former. But the 1989 successes of Mr Doug Wilder and Mr David Dinkins stand in direct line to the municipal successes of 1967.

In the 1970s the gaming game for the first black presidential candidate was between Mayors Tom Bradley of Los Angeles, Coleman Young of Detroit and Julian Bond of Georgia. Mr Jackson beat those worthies to the life. Taking the different route of preacher to the oppressed, he piled up primary votes in two presidential campaigns, undermining the support of conventional black Democrats who opposed him.

The next few weeks are critical. If Mr Jackson wants to move with the political tide, a mayoral campaign could be portrayed, however speciously, as keeping up the momentum of the Black successes.

If, however, he truly believes in his own unique appeal, he could face the national voters for the third time with the same credentials as before. But would anyone still be listening in 1992?



Mr Jackson: Mayoral test looming in Washington.

Letter from Haiti

Band plays above the din of battle

The number of empty tables on the verandah of the Grand Hotel Oloffson is a barometer of Haiti's political climate.

In the dark days of Papa Doc Duvalier and the Tonton Macoute, the hotel's former owner, the late Al Seitz, who reputedly won the place in a poker game, would sit here amid the potted palms and regale Graham Greene with the woes of running a hotel without clients. Greene later used the rotting wooden building as the setting for *The Comedians*.

Today it is the new owner, Richard Morse, who balefully eyes the writers and journalists who flock to Haiti for the latest chapter in a recurring nightmare of political infamy, knowing that their horror stories will keep his regular guests away for months.

The turbulent events of the four years since the collapse of the long Duvalier family dictatorship have seen the Oloffson close for a time when Seitz's widow gave up the struggle to meet rising bills.

She saw the famous artists who were once her regulars drift slowly away, leaving only their memories on the nameplates of the suites and cottages dotted among the tropical shrubbery — Noel Coward, Lillian Hellman, Irving Stone, and more recently Mick Jagger.

With their passing, the throngs who came to rub shoulders also deserted the hotel. A harder band of lifers hangs on, drawn by the mystic charm of Haiti and by the famous gingerbread landmark overlooking Port-au-Prince that has shared so much of the nation's chaotic history.

It was built at the turn of the century by a former Haitian President who was later torn to pieces outside by a mob. The rambling mansion rises like a fantasy above the palms, a towering pile of turrets, towers, balconies and lacy grille-work, held together by layers of ageing white paint.

Greene wrote: "It had the air at night of a Charles Addams house in a number of *The New Yorker*. You expected a witch to open the door to you or a maniac butler, with a bat dangling from a chandelier behind him. But in the sunlight ... it seemed fragile and period and pretty and absurd."

After the first owner's sudden demise, US Marines used

it as a hospital when they occupied Haiti until 1934. Then Oloffson, a Norwegian sea captain, made it a hotel.

Against all the odds, as political violence in Haiti continues to keep tour companies away, the former reggae musician Richard Morse has rescued the place from permanent closure and restored its quirky glory.

To the wickerwork furniture and enormous wooden beds, he has added a new collection of primitive Haitian art to replace the one Mrs Seitz auctioned off.

In an atelier near the car park, a local craftsman sews voodoo flags while on Monday nights the hotel chambermaids and the owner's beautiful wife, Lunise, are transformed into a voodoo dance troupe choreographed by Mr Morse's famous Haitian mother, Emerante de Pradines, or Amy to her friends.

There is also the strong likelihood of an even more dramatic cabaret. Diners on the verandah are regularly entertained by the din of battle around the national palace below. One recent coup attempt sent tracers into the night sky above the hotel roof. The band played on.

At breakfast, one of Haiti's most irrepressible characters, the gossip columnist and art collector, Aubelin Jolicoeur, is on hand to explain how things turned out.

Greene immortalized him as Petit Pierre, the dapper social gadfly with the silver-topped cane and the uncanny knack of surviving the political ups and downs that brought disaster to others.

Anby, as he is known in real life, was a minister for a few days in one short-lived government but now, like his host, he finds he has more time on his hands for a chat with the handful of guests brave enough to keep coming to Haiti.

The addicted few fill the hours lounging by the pool wondering if tomorrow, as in Greene, the Interior Minister's body might be found below the diving platform.

Or at sunset they gather for rum punches at the bar to keep a watchful eye on the sagging wooden ceiling where the Anne Bancroft suite constantly threatens to collapse on to the piano.

Alan Tomlinson

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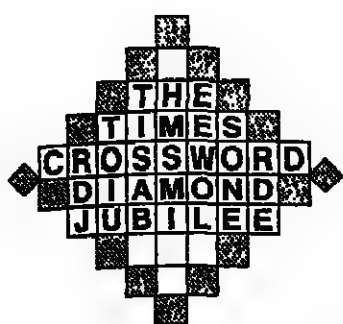
Jackson faces
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SPECTRUM

Down and across the decades



This week marks
the diamond
jubilee of The
Times Crossword.
John Grant looks
at some of the

personalities who have helped to shape
the most famous puzzle in the world

The insinuation of the crossword puzzle into *The Times* was a devious business. In December 1924 we had published an article about America's enslavement to the crossword, which we called "a menace because it is making devastating inroads on the working hours of every rank of society".

Five years later, when crosswords had become popular here, *The Times* made an oblique move. A crossword appeared in the Weekly Edition of the paper on January 2, 1930, and a letter from Lieutenant Commander A.C. Powell, RN, in *The Times* a fortnight later asked whether it might not be reprinted in the daily edition once a week as an attraction to readers, most of whom, in subsequent letters to the editor, seemed to approve. The result was that the puzzle printed on January 23 in the Weekly Edition hopped like a chess knight into the main paper, and readers were informed that a series of daily puzzles would start on February 1.

How much the opinions of the readers counted for is not clear, because Robin Barrington Ward, later editor of *The Times*, had some weeks earlier asked his friend, Robert Bell, news editor of the *Observer*, if he knew of anyone who could compile crosswords. Bell put the idea to his son Adrian, who had been farming in Suffolk for 10 years, having at the age of 18 fled from London and the threat of an office life. Adrian said he knew nothing about crosswords, to which his father replied: "You have 10 days to learn."

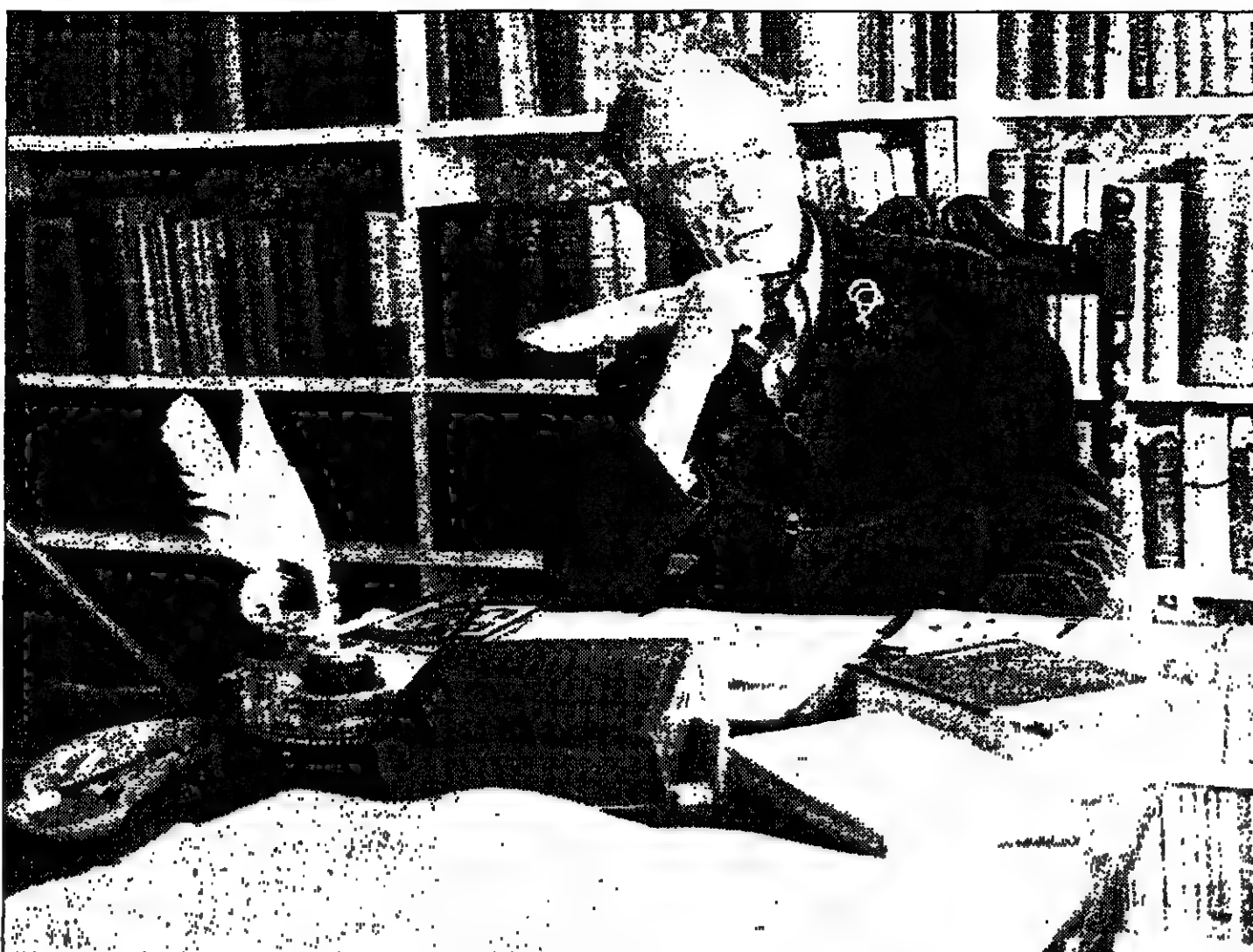
Adrian spent the Christmas of 1929 learning, and compiled puzzle No 1, which appeared on the sports page on February 1, 1930. (The puzzle was not given its permanent anchorage on the back

page until 1947). He continued to compile for almost half a century until his death in 1978, by which time he had produced almost 5,000 puzzles.

Bell was a prolific writer of books on English rural life and character, gentle, modest and wise. One can see a nice capacity for lateral thinking in one of his books where he asks his wife, who is hanging over the marmalade pan, "What happened to the wooden spoon the cat gave you for Christmas?" Crossword compiling, he said, was "the ideal job for a chap with a vacant mind sitting on a tractor harrowing clouds, or bicycling". Most of his work seems to have been done on his bicycle in country lanes, with the chosen words for his next crossword propped up in the basket in front of him.

In his early puzzles he was plainly more concerned with familiarizing readers with the crossword idea than in being cryptic. But his ability to look at things in a new light soon became apparent: "The cylinder is jammed (5,4)" for example (Swiss roll). And has anyone ever produced two neater clues than "Die of cold (3,4)" and "Spoils of war (4)" (ice cube and Mars)?

The crossword quickly caught on. Roger Millington, in his book *The Strange World of the Crossword* (M. & J. Hobbs with Michael Joseph, 1974), describes how, during the 1930 Lambeth Conference, a bishop, surrounded by copies of *The Times*, was heard to ask another cleric: "Do you think you could find me a copy in which the crossword has not been solved?" Later, another reverend wrote to the paper suggesting episcopal authorship of the puzzles on the evidence of the clue "Home of the fatted calf nowadays" (gaiter).



In at the deep end: Adrian Bell, who was farming in Suffolk when told that he had 10 days to learn how to compile the first crosswords for *The Times*

The editor of the crossword from the outset was Ronald Cartan, another graceful writer who had been a reporter on the staff since before the First World War.

He enjoyed telling how almost his first task on joining the paper had been to go out and buy a white silk handkerchief to cover the face of Moberley Bell, the manager, who had just died at his desk.

During the Second World War, Cartan worked in a government department on anti-enemy propaganda, but somehow managed to contribute the bulk of the crosswords as well as edit them all. When the office started making cuts in the clues, on the grounds of the paper shortage, he was moved to protest that "... the clues of the crossword are written, and always

have been written, with the greatest economy of words. That is what makes them bright and pungent. To cut down what is already succinct is to impair the general quality of the work."

On Cartan's death in 1960, his wife Jane, who had been contributing puzzles and helping with the editing for some years, took over. She had a pretty turn of wit - "The greater snowdrop (9)" and "Foreign entanglements (9)" (avalanche and spaghetti) - but her chief concern was always to check every possible fact; one must be certain that the solver could not write and say, "I think this is unfair."

The style of the crossword today owes most to Edmund Akenhead, who took over as editor from Jane Cartan in 1965. As a life-long

member of the Magic Circle, he feels that the cryptic crossword compiler has much in common with the conjurer, since it is his constant aim to misdirect the solver by mental sleight of hand. He was involved in two major developments, *The Times* Crossword Championship and the Jumbo puzzle, which he invented.

In 1970 the first championship was held, in conjunction with Cutty Sark Whisky. Competitors had to qualify by solving correctly any one of five puzzles appearing during May. Unfortunately, more than 20,000 qualified, and a laborious series of elimination puzzles had to be set. The first of these was still too easy - 1,000 people solved it - and the third too hard - only 42 - so the

302 people who had correctly solved the second eliminator had all to be invited to the final.

(Now that there are six regional finals in *The Times* Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship, the eliminator is usually needed only to reduce the London entries to manageable proportions; about 200 people solve it correctly, and others with up to half a dozen or so mistakes or omissions are admitted to the London finals.)

The Jumbo puzzles, which Akenhead started in 1970, were well-described on the occasion of Akenhead's retirement in 1983 by Roy Deans, the retired diplomat who won the first *Times* championship. "What elephantine elegance, what breadth of erudition,

THE CHALLENGE

The *Times* Diamond Jubilee Crossword, which has 2,025 squares and is equivalent to nine ordinary puzzles, will be broken into five sections throughout this week.

Today we print the grid for the whole of the crossword, together with the clues for the first section which lies within the unshaded part of the grid. The clues for the second section, together with the relevant part of the grid, will be published tomorrow and so on.

On Saturday we will reprint the whole grid, together with the remaining multi-section clues, to unite the whole. Entries should be filled in on the grid which is reprinted on Saturday.

There are 12 prizes on offer for the successful solvers: the winner will receive £1,000 and a trip to India for two, courtesy of Hogg Robinson and Co., & Kings. The nine-day tour begins

and ends in Delhi with trips to the Pink City, Jaipur, and Agra.

The second prize is a numbered set of the 32-volume *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in the limited edition Platinum binding, together with a matching copy of the *Britannica World Data Annual*. Each of the 10 runners-up will receive *The Times Atlas* of the World.

Full details of how to enter your solution, where to send your entry and the closing date will be published on Saturday, February 3.

what excitement as the solver is led on from Shakespeare to Shaw, from the Bible to Brewer, from Ancient Greece to modern science, until the onset of writer's cramp forces the pen from his fingers. How fitting that the name of Akenhead can be clued as "A knowledge master".

Finally, a personal word to our erudite and faithful solvers. A worry often expressed to me at regional finals is: "Are the puzzles getting more difficult, or am I getting slower?" The answer is twofold. First, our compilers seldom change, and we do not try to be more than ordinarily perverse. And second, it is human nature to think we have a right to be always on our best form, and to be disappointed when we are not. So don't worry - it's only a game.

Below are the clues for the first part of

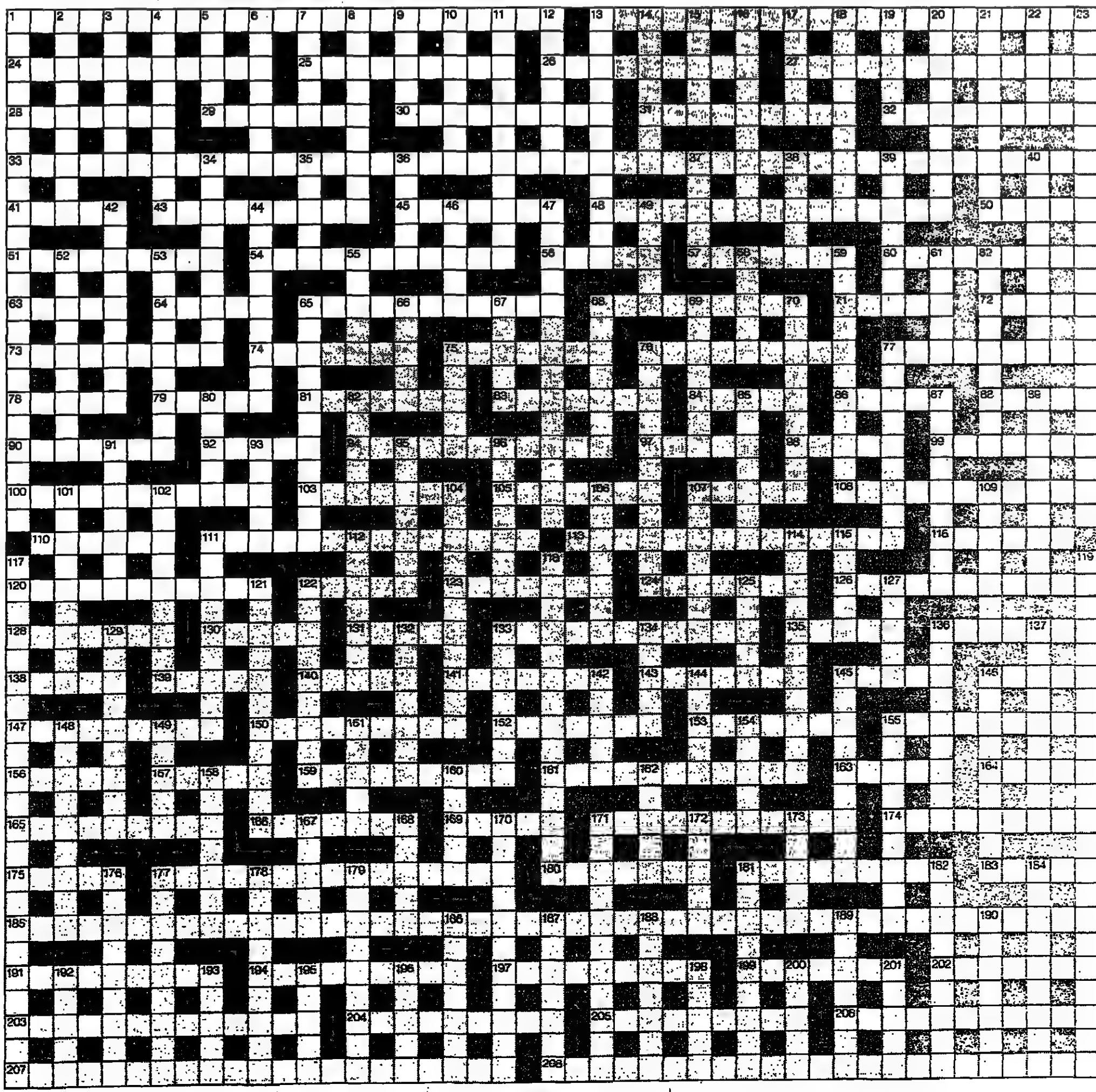
The Times Diamond Jubilee
Crossword, the answers to which fit
within, but do not fill, the unshaded
section of the grid. Clues not given
today will appear throughout this week

ACROSS

- Proverbial statement of relative solidarity (5,2,7,4,5)
- Diagnostic aid doctor encountered in there? Right (11)
- Like a writer annoying us in angry letter, initially, about the Thunderer (9)
- Girl cutting fabric (7)
- Hero-worshiper (7)
- Heard a little boy, if I'd made tart (9)
- Object of veneration Catholic priest embraced (5)
- Settling for late retirement? (7,2)
- Descriptive term - one *The Times* leader placed on record (7)
- Christian name for Arab child, oddly (9)
- Jazz songstress affected in vacation centre (7,4)
- Discharge former PM half-heartedly (5)
- Better, perhaps, to capture rook (5)
- Mucking about is silly - shop early (9)
- Wines produced in Picardy? (5)
- Firmly establish distinction in limited edition (5)
- Place for sisters, including 153's? (7)
- Find very little strap on horse (5)
- Man older than most - than an elder, possibly (11)

DOWN

- However, those carpenter addressed weren't quick to reply (3,6,4,5,4)
- Everybody succeeded, we hear, as well for both sides (3,3,3)
- Faulty memory - first daughter put in Joan's place (7)
- Genuine tanner not spotted (5-4)
- The novel about love set on lake - in this (5)
- Bunch of flowers with flag in the middle (7)
- Dash'd animal (5)
- Trip south changed teacher's position (9)
- A foreign city's peculiar charm (5)
- Why, for audience, *The King and I* is repeated in resort (7)
- Discussing one's work in ineffective assembly (7,4)
- I invested in property, in fact (7)
- Nothing vital repeated about Duke? That's all right (4-5)
- He upsets cricket side when batting ... (5)
- ... as top player at close of play is out of form (5)
- Lack of cordiality in church leads to complaint (9)
- Was left in it without female editor (9)
- Altogether the reverse of 93 (2,3)
- Old man in car is concerned with special gear (9)
- Troops not well placed in middle of major road (9)
- Lassie's complain? (5)
- Final part of play, a modern one (7)
- Tired nobody out (3,2)



TIMES DIARY

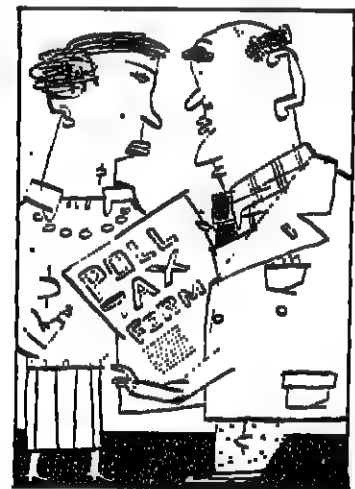
SHERIDAN MORLEY

Having been taken to task by Griff Rhys-Jones in his column on Wednesday for daring to suggest that drama at Oxford (and even at his own light-blue alma mater) might improve if there were a proper drama department, I would like him to know that he does not have a monopoly of ghastly undergrad greasypaint memories. In my own spectacular year as secretary of OUDS in 1962/3, we staged *A Midsummer Night's Dream* not just beside, but actually on, Worcester College lake, the idea being that, at the end, Puck would walk across the water towards Oberon to audience gasps of amazement. Because our Puck, though an extremely gifted actor, was unpossessed of the biblical gift, we lowered oil drums on to the concrete bottom of the lake and lashed planks to them just below water level. The manoeuvre took several days and nights, but it worked. After the opening performance I asked a devoted aunt for her verdict. "Very interesting," she said. "I had never realized before quite how shallow Worcester lake really is."

For those of us resident in the Marylebone Road, or at any rate far enough to the side of it to avoid being run down by the juggernauts, life becomes more exciting by the hour. In the last few days we have seen the arrival of a chic new kind of bright blue wheelclamp. And up on the corner of Park Square the Diorama has come back to spectacular life. This is not, you understand, Christian's old perfume factory: it is the Louis Daguerre building of 1823, created to provide "a delightful and educative pavilion on the Prince Regent's processional route into the park", but so derelict these last few years that even the sign on the roof has lost several of its letters. Alas, the Diorama's new plans to become a self-sufficient, non-subsidized arts centre may run into a conflict between commercial realities and artistic dreams: but London has long needed an off-West End, somewhere between Shaftesbury Avenue and the Fringe, where companies such as Branagh's Renaissance and Donnellan's Cheek-by-Jowl can make money in studio surroundings, and if anyone can get this plan to work it is probably the Diorama's new artistic director, Nica Burns, who performed a similar miracle at the late-lamented Warehouse in Covent Garden. All they need is £9 million.

Still in the Marylebone Road, my daughter Juliet and I have just made our ritual five-yearly look around Tussauds. As usual it's the Battle of Trafalgar and bloodshed in the Chamber of Horrors, but to me the really important part is the central chambers where — just as Kremlinologists could once forecast Soviet policy by who stood next to whom on the balcony for Red Square marches — the mood of the nation can be ascertained by the arrangement of the wax statues. Thus Madame Tussaud herself is now being wuffed aloft by that intrepid balloonist Richard Branson, but only a few inches off the ground, in presumably cynical reference to his aerial mishaps of late. Similarly, in the Royal Family corner, the Princesses Anne and Margaret are now set apart on a sort of "royal ladies who are no longer with their husbands" plinth. Of the husbands concerned, Snowdon has vanished altogether, and Mark Phillips now stands with a dagger and several feet of empanchement around him, as if awaiting relegation to the Three-Day Eventers corner.

BARRY FANTONI



"Do we include the storm damage assessor as a permanent occupant?"

Why, as Noel Coward used to sing in one of his more cynical cabaret numbers, must the show go on? Shows usually are expected to go on, however, and Thursday night's storm was no exception. For example, the black-cloaked figure of Steven Berkoff was to be seen footling it to the Phoenix for *Salome*, having abandoned his car in a flood; and at the Coliseum *Beatrice and Benedict* went ahead after a curtain-raising apology by Peter Jones for the absence of half his orchestra and a quarter of the chorus. The only cancelled performance, so far as I can ascertain, was of *Scenes From An Execution*: Glenda Jackson got stuck in a traffic jam on her way from south London to the Almeida in Islington. An extra performance is planned to make up for it.

A well-wisher sent me the application form. On the cover was the announcement "a sizzling £2,000 to be won". I turned to the conditions of entry, of which there were admirably few: judges' decision to be final — okay by me; no cash alternatives to any prize — no problem, for most of the prizes were cash. Correspondence cannot be entered into and proof of posting shall not be recognized as proof of delivery standard, though at the foot of the page, beneath the section in which they ask for your name (in block letters, please) address, postcode, daytime telephone number and age — why age? — applicants have to sign a declaration: "I certify that I do not and have not earned my living from food writing."

That should narrow the field; it eliminates me, though when I earned it as a food writer, the living was only moderate. A pity,

Norman Tebbit's emotive case for preventing British citizens from Hong Kong coming to the UK — as set out on this page last Tuesday — is flawed historically and legally. And its tone is gratuitously offensive to the ethnic minorities who already live here, and have every right to do so. His statement can only create divisions in British society.

Like Enoch Powell, Mr Tebbit would prefer to construe three centuries of British history to accord with his own views. Since Elizabethan times Britain sought not only to develop trade links with countries all over the world but to colonize vast tracts of it. The British Empire was the largest ever created.

What Tebbit and Powell choose to forget is that in creating this empire, the British people, through successive sovereigns and Parliament, made a quarter of the world's population British subjects, in British and international law. Until 1962 all British subjects had full rights to live, work and vote in Britain.

The argument then, that the people of Britain had a multi-racial, multinational society foisted on them is a gross error. It was an inevitable consequence

Praveen Moman warns against alienating Britain's minorities

Tebbit—the Tory liability

of deliberate policies that created a multi-racial, multicultural empire. In the Empire's closing stages, people in many different countries, not only white Britons, were British subjects. That is the context in which Hong Kong, still a crown colony, must be seen.

The offensive tone in which Mr Tebbit refers to Britain's black and Asian population shows the disregard for the quiet and constructive way they have settled down and contributed to British society, despite the discrimination they have faced. Nor is this contribution confined to running corner shops. Several hundred thousand jobs have been created by ethnic businessmen; the NHS would fold tomorrow without its black and Asian staff; there are large numbers in the professions, sport and entertainment.

The transformation of Britain into a multi-racial, multicultural

country has undoubtedly posed problems of adjustment. But, rather than carp about the difficulties and sow division, responsible politicians have a duty to develop policies to foster greater acceptance and understanding of the different religions and races which are the reality of Britain today.

In a democratic society, blacks and Asians can no longer be treated as second-class citizens, discriminated against and denied equal opportunity. This must be understood if Britain is to create a harmonious and successful multi-ethnic society. Otherwise we risk further social tension which can only poison our country. That does not mean minorities should be given preferential treatment; they should receive equal treatment.

If British laws are to continue to symbolize fairness and justice, and not to be expedient and cynical whims typical of a rotten

banana republic, Britain has to honour its commitments to all British citizens, whether white, Chinese, black or Asian. By creating a category of second-class citizens — Overseas British Nationals — Britain has become the only country not to give automatic right of settlement to some of its own nationals. However, they cannot be disowned altogether, as some would wish.

The Government's proposal — to allow 50,000 household heads who run Hong Kong's administration, business and finance — the right to full British citizenship and residence in Britain — is the minimum it can do, both to fulfil our legal responsibilities and ensure the prosperity of the colony.

Many people may see even those minimalist moves as unacceptable in a Britain already "swamped" by immigrants. It is unfair to equate British subjects

from former colonies with foreign immigrants, especially as many of the latter were specifically recruited in the 1950s to rebuild the British economy in the aftermath of war. The overwhelming majority of blacks and Asians were British subjects before they arrived, and their children born here are obviously British, both in law and increasingly in attitude.

As Britain's relations with the Commonwealth have changed, it is right that we have introduced immigration controls: we cannot however, refuse entry to those who have a right to live here.

Unless there is a basic consensus within the Conservative Party to pursue balanced policies for all British citizens, it will suffer electorally. British blacks and Asians, many of whom have a solid stake in the entrepreneurial culture created during the past decade, have steadily

turned to the Conservative Party. In the 1960s only a few voted Conservative; by 1987 the number had increased to about 23 per cent and the trend appears to be upward.

Insensitive aspersions about "immigrants" which continue to be made by some Conservative politicians can only drive the minorities back to Labour. In the 1960s Labour was able to cultivate them, using the class war as a justification. In recent years the minorities, seeing through Labour's policies, began to abandon it. But if the Conservative Party should now retreat into its old attitudes, they will be forced to turn anew to the socialist alternative. The presence of four black Labour MPs in the House of Commons is a direct consequence of the Conservatives' reluctance to take a stand for the minorities.

There is a further change since the 1960s. Then blacks and Asians accepted the hostility and discrimination that they faced; today, they expect to have the same rights as any other British citizens, and will look to the party that provides them.

The author, born in Uganda, is a Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate.

Dog lover into vicious brute

Bernard Levin relates how a bereaved mother has been abused and threatened for seeking a ban on the import and breeding of Rottweilers

Last April, a child of 11, named Kellie Lynch, was killed by two Rottweiler dogs. For my readers to understand fully the point I wish to make, it is necessary for me to go into some detail, distasteful though it may be. The child, who was small for her age, was taking the two dogs for a walk, along with a friend, a girl of the same age. The two dogs between them weighed roughly 12 stone.

The children were walking the dogs for their owner, the proprietor of the hotel where Kellie Lynch was staying. They had done the same daily for a fortnight, with no untoward consequences. The walk went by a river, and when they reached it, Kellie Lynch needed to relieve herself; she was squatting down when both dogs bounded forward. Without any change in their demeanour or signs of threat, such as growling or pawing the ground, the two dogs set upon Kellie and tore her to pieces. With remarkable courage, her friend tried to pull them off, but of course was unable to do so; they did not attack her. She then ran for help; when she returned, accompanied, Kellie was dead, her throat torn out and her spine severed. A woman staying at the hotel, who ran to the scene to help, was herself badly bitten.

The two dogs were put down, humanely. At the inquest, their owner gave evidence; he said that the dogs had never before given signs of aggression, let alone attacked anyone. He added that this particular breed characteristically did not display any signs of growing aggression if they were going to attack. It was

agreed that the owner was knowledgeable about such dogs; he had exhibited them at shows and won prizes. He owned two more, and had them put down, too.

Kellie's mother, with whom I have spoken and corresponded, is a calm and in no way vindictive woman. But she has dedicated herself to a campaign for legislation which would declare Rottweilers to be a lethal species, and to make it illegal for anyone to own them. She is not extravagant in her claims; she does not advocate the immediate culling of all Rottweilers in Britain, but she says that all further breeding of them should be stopped, and that it should be illegal to import them. In addition, she insists that all Rottweilers should wear muzzles whenever they are not securely fastened in their kennels.

Now the sky darkens. It is necessary for me to emphasize again that there is nothing fanatical or hysterical in Mrs Lynch's demeanour; she has issued no threats and indulged in no offensive language. But she has received threatening and obscene letters, a missile has been flung through the window of her home, an airgun pellet was fired into her car, and she has suffered shouts of abuse when appearing in public. One letter ran as follows: "Stop your campaign now or you will be the next victim to suffer the same fate as your bitch Kellie." The writer included a newspaper photograph of Kellie with "Ha! Ha! Ha!" written across her face. In addition, her child's grave has been desecrated no fewer than 25 times. Incidentally, almost all the letters of this kind have come

from people who say they are Rottweiler owners.

In January 1986, I wrote a column about a similar episode; an Alsatian had leaped at a 13-year-old, and caused him frightful injuries, though in this case the child survived. The woman whom the dog owned protested that it was "placid and gentle", that it was "wonderful with children" and that it had torn large holes in a human being only because it "was frightened" — all these touching tributes, of course, having been given after the attack on the boy.

Adding insensitivity to stupidity, the woman with the homicidal dog refused to have it put down. Court proceedings followed, and the magistrate ordered the dog to be humanely destroyed, "in view of the savagery of the attack and the dreadful injuries sustained". Whereupon, as I recorded, "For miles around, sympathy is being expressed, money raised, protests lodged, for the dog." I gave up; who wouldn't, in the face of such anthropomorphic imbecility? Later, a reader who lived in the vicinity of the occurrence finished the story for me: the dog had been reprieved.

It is no good just telling me that in any society there are brutes and fools, creatures with stunted minds and no imagination, hate-sodden misanthropes. Of course there are; I have always maintained that if we had lost the war there would have been men enough to work the British gas chambers. But what happened in the wake of Mrs Lynch's tragedy demands a different kind of explanation.



Not long ago, arriving for dinner with friends, I was introduced to one of my fellow-guests, who said: "Ah, you're the man who wrote 'The English don't really love dogs, they just hate children.'" I was considerably startled, because I had no recollection of writing anything of the kind; if I didn't, I have no idea who did. But somewhere in that cruel sentence there lurks a terrible meaning.

If you dismiss it, I think you are obliged to explain the unspeakable consequences of Mrs

Lynch's admirable, urgent and most necessary campaign. For I did not add, in the catalogue of wickedness she has experienced, the one item which cannot be explained away by saying that her persecutors are deranged. It is the fact that a number of people whom she has known as friends and townsfolk now shun her company. However passionately we struggle against it, the conclusion is inescapable: such people believe that she has been stained, and therefore accounted no longer fit to mix

with, because she has been seen and heard to criticize dogs.

Now even if Mrs Lynch had started her campaign on a mere whim, not out of a concern for other parents who might thus be bereaved, she would still be absolutely in the right. Indeed, she does not go far enough. It can and must be said, without qualification, that no one in this country — no one — in any place and in any circumstances whatever, needs to own and keep a Rottweiler, a Doberman, or a pit bull-terrier, and the sooner legislation giving force to that undeniable fact is enacted, the better for us all.

We cannot blame the dogs; that is the anthropomorphic fallacy upside-down. They are literally untameable, and there is no point in calling them savage, let alone treacherous. If your house catches fire, it is obviously a waste of time to curse the flames; but it is not a waste of time to play a hose on them.

These terrible and terrifying animals simply cannot be allowed to share the lives of human beings, and not just because there are idiots who would buy one without knowing anything about its keeping and training, or even without knowing that there is such work to be done, after all, the man who owned the dogs which killed Kellie Lynch was an experienced dog-handler, but that did not save the child.

This seems to me exactly the kind of legislation that Private Members' Bills were made for. Is there an MP with a good place in the queue, the courage and determination of Mrs Lynch, and the fortitude to face her subsequent experiences? If not, how many more children are to be devoured before one legislator braver than his fellows can be persuaded to stand up and say "I beg to move"?

'Of course I love you—it's in the contract'

Most human relationships, a famous American philosopher once tried to convince me, should be viewed on a contractual basis. He even claimed that his own relations with his young children were contractual. His was an extreme view, but it is a fact that our society is becoming dominated by what might be called the culture of contractualism.

The most recent example is provided by the universities, which now have to bid for students at a guide price for each discipline. The Universities Funding Council wants to encourage competitive bidding below the guide price in order to reduce costs and we have been told that the guide prices are in any event about to be revised.

The Government's encouragement of contractualism says something deep about our modern culture and something important about modern Conservatism. It has often been argued that as we move to a more individualistic society, we will view institutions and relationships in terms of how they

Raymond Plant laments the Tories' growing emphasis on the dotted line

will help us to achieve our private purposes. Public institutions, such as the NHS, will no longer express communal or collective values but will be judged by the degree of efficiency with which they facilitate the achievement of private ends.

Contract is also an important device for filling the vacuum left by what is seen by the New Right as a sentimental public service ethic. People in the public service, whether civil servants, doctors, ambulance men, teachers or university professors, are not governed by a different set of goals from those in the market sector. They too seek the maximization of their utilities. However, they pursue their self-interest outside the disciplines of the market which, in that sphere, transform the pursuit of private interest into a public good. So in the public sector we have to bring in more market-like relationships in order to constrain bureaucratic and professional self-advancing beha-

viour. Instead of trust in an ethic of public service we need to tie professionals down to contractual relationships between producer and the consumer.

The other factor making for the contractual culture, and one about which I hear a great deal in the university, is achieving a transparency of cost: the need to cost everything which can be costed (and a good deal of what cannot) so that there can then be a contractual relationship based on a real assessment of the costs to each side of the contract.

A good deal in this has to be accepted. We are living in a more individualistic society, accountability means less bureaucratic and professional discretion, which has often been exercised in a self-interested way; it does mean strengthening the hand of the consumer.

However, there are dangers in an uncritical acceptance of the contractual model, and particularly for the coherence of conservatism. After all conservatism's

greatest thinker, Edmund Burke, was vehemently opposed to a contractual view of society. Indeed, I think that it was probably the influence of the contractual model which led Lord Beloff to argue recently that this government was not conservative at all but often behaved like a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Institute of Economic Affairs. According to the New Right, we should no longer operate on trust in professional values and the idea of vocation and service so much as clear contractual relationships. After all, as ministers keep saying, professors are producer interest groups.

The danger is that there is no clear stopping place for the contractual model, as my philosopher friend made clear. I recently read an article by a prominent New Right thinker which argued that the family is best understood as a paternalistically managed firm. Best understood? Really? Conservatives frequently be-

lieve that the grain of human nature and of working against the grain. However, the socialist critic is surely right here. We are complex creatures and certainly contract is an indispensable element to institutions and relationships. But we need to have a moral boundary around the contractual sphere. At the moment the idea of contract, along with that of privatization and markets, is being pushed to such an extent that it becomes a kind of moral imperialism, displacing other values which as a society we need to share.

We need other values for the reason that the French sociologist Durkheim pointed out: that not everything in a contract is contractual. That is to say, the contractual relationship is actually based on trust, commitment, fair dealing, keeping promises, and so forth. These moral preconditions are indispensable if contractual relationships are to work. If that is

so, we must be wary of extending the contractual model over more and more areas of society and so displace ideas such as trust, professional ethics and vocation. When contract comes to dominate, it may drive out other values on which efficiency also depends.

I have recently heard many teachers and doctor friends say that because of the way their professions are being taken over by the contractual model they will stick to the letter of the contract and do what is required by it and nothing else. Ministers can hardly then appeal to professional ethics and duty since it is they who have sought to replace them by contract.

Stanley Baldwin, when Conservative leader, once referred to the claim that modern society was witnessing a transition from status to contract, and then in his vague way said: "Or was it the other way round?" Perhaps his confusion shed more light than he knew upon the nature of modern Conservatism. The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

Brevity on a barbecue spit



CLEMENT
FREUD

£2,000 would have been handy. I write of the Badoit naturally sparkling mineral water competition held in association with the Guild of Food Writers for "the most imaginative, original commentary on the State of the Art of the Barbecue. Entries are invited on any aspect — techniques, recipes, social history, personal reminiscence, useful tips, scientific analysis and vegetarian perspective — in not less than twenty-five words and not more than 1,000. The judges will be looking for originality and depth of research, as well as style and content."

I believe that if a contest specifies a word range, then it

must be possible to win by contributing work anywhere within that range — and I have been worrying about how the qualities for which the judges are looking can be delivered at the lower figure. Take the entry: "To barbecue or not to barbecue, good question. I plump for 'not', how else would I contain this commentary within two dozen words and one?"

The originality for which the judges are searching lies in the final question-mark. I have never encountered — nor are the good people designated to choose the winner likely to receive any — entries ending with a "??". Style seems satisfactory: sort of Shakes-

pearian at the beginning, and while I did consider being poetic and using "half of a half of a hundred" to paraphrase 25, I think my version is more elegant, shorter also. Content is perfect.

Content is what something contains and, as they will note, my entry contains the exact bottom number of words on the form. It is, I admit (and perspicacious readers may have noticed this before I drew their attention to the fact), a touch short in the "depth of research" department. I am afraid the judges will just have to take my word for it. I have researched the State of the Art of the Barbecue very deeply (this could be where "age of applicant" is relevant). My deep research concluded that you could not manifest profounder knowledge within a word-count of 25.

And yet they would not have printed twenty-five words were it

not possible by careful arrangement of verbiage to win the glittering prize within the space of four lines of a limerick. There must be a way of encapsulating diligent scholarship, originality and style to get a place on the winners' podium, which in this case is luncheon, with a guest, at Mr Mosimann's distinguished Belgravia dining club, which the master chef opened after leaving the Dorchester.

"Mallard's breasts, macerated four days in Calvados, larded with hard porkfat, cooked on an oiled griddle a foot above smouldering oak chippings and rosemary branches" might do it; the four-day maceration could

persuade them of the extent of research, mallards are quite original and "smouldering oak chippings" is distinctly stylish.

I would settle, were I not disqualified from competing, for third prize: a year's supply of Badoit, which is my favourite mineral water.

Some 30 years ago, *The New Statesman's* weekly competition invited entrants to describe the final session between psychoanalyst and patient after a five-year analysis. One of the prizewinners did this in six words: "Goodbye, I made it all up."

I showed this to a distinguished analyst in my family, who read it, gave me a hard look and said: "In that case, the patient is not cured; there will have to be more sessions." A difficult thing, treading the thin line between pleasing the judges and retaining the approval of professionals.



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AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

In next week's State of the Union speech President Bush will be able to speak proudly of the year gone by. The liberation of Eastern Europe is a theme with which even the least of presidential orators can make a good song. Others may argue about how far the United States contributed to the tyrants' fall. The occupant of the White House — like his predecessors — will attempt to ensure that the greatest possible credit comes in his direction.

Unfortunately for Mr Bush he is also credited with a good many other happenings of the year since his inauguration: with rising inner city crime, with the curse of drugs, with pollution of the atmosphere and the sputtering path of industrial production and economic growth. His rhetorical task, sanctified by tradition, is to offer remedies, ask for aid and make people feel better about these problems.

This is an election year in the United States. Mr Bush may hold the presidency; but the executive powers of that office alone give him barely more ability to cleanse American streets of drugs or American classrooms of incompetent teachers than to breach the ramparts of communist Albania. To promote his domestic ambitions as the "education president", "the environment president" and the general in the war on cocaine, he needs Republican victories in elections at state legislator, mayoral, gubernatorial and congressional levels.

His immediate prospects are not good. Although his own popularity is at record heights, and Americans remain pleased with his cautious approach towards the decay of the Soviet empire, there is little evidence of electoral rewards for his party. The Democrats have dominated the House of Representatives for 35 years. They now outnumber Republicans by 257 to 175 and the rate of reelection for incumbents is about 98 per cent. If President Bush were to improve his party's House position he would be the first to do so in a mid-term election since President Roosevelt in 1934.

The Senate, where only a third of the seats are up for election and the Democrat lead is 55 seats to 45, is potentially the better Republican territory. But the President's party is losing the services of at least four prematurely retiring senators. No sitting Democrat has announced a departure. The best that the President can

hope for on Capitol Hill this year is to continue guiding his limited domestic agenda through the unfriendly territory and to try to use his authority to stop the position becoming worse in two years' time.

That might mean backing some of the changes in campaign financing which are circulating among reform-minded members of Congress. But serious attempts to reduce the amounts of money in US politics will come up against vested interests in both parties. It will be argued, correctly, that past reform measures have caused as many problems as they have solved. But the need to bring more equity and accountability into Congress is great.

More immediately, the President must concentrate on a single key election which influences the balance of American politics disproportionately. Whoever wins the governorship of California in November will have the final say on the redrawing of a probable six new congressional seats to be created as a result of the 1990 census. If a Democrat draws the lines for the biggest state delegation to Washington in US history, the House of Representatives may be delivered even more tightly into Democrat hands. The Republican candidate, Senator Pete Wilson, is unpopular with many Republican activists because of his pro-choice stance on abortion. If the President allows the Republican party to be boxed into the pro-life corner of this increasingly acrimonious debate, he will suffer — not only in California, but in gubernatorial elections in Florida and Texas too.

The President will be able confidently to report that the state of the union is strong. He will not be able to be so sanguine about the solidity of US links to the world outside. The greatest demands on Mr Bush's leadership are to ensure that reductions in US forces result in a level of power which can fulfil the country's commitments abroad. European leaders, in turn, must ensure that he has the necessary allied support in that task.

As a conservative internationalist, who strongly believes that it is in America's interest to apply its power abroad for the preservation of peace, President Bush is entitled to legitimate worries. In holding his views, however, he belongs to a breed that is in gentle, but none the less clear, decline.

UNIVERSAL AUNTIE?

The economies announced last week by the BBC amount to a modest drawing in of the corporate horns. The proposed savings — £75 million a year by 1993 — are of the order of 2 per cent. They are to be achieved by disbarring the smallest of the BBC's orchestras, scrapping plans for a new radio centre at White City, and squeezing £25 million out of the budget for network television.

The cuts were proposed by an internal committee chaired by Mr Ian Phillips, the Corporation's director of finance recruited two years ago from British Rail. It was set up after last year's pay dispute, and an important object of the exercise was to release resources to fund a more competitive pay structure.

The committee was enjoined to do this, however, without affecting the quality or range of programmes. The terms of reference were, that is, self-contradictory, if not impossible. Interviewed on television, the BBC's Director General said that any discussion of the number of jobs to be lost could only be speculative. That is difficult to believe. If calculations about numbers did not lie at the heart of the review team's work, its efforts were misdirected.

A more likely reason for Mr Checkland's reticence on this point is that he does not wish to make life more difficult than it already is for his director of personnel in the forthcoming round of pay talks. The unions with which the BBC has to deal seem not to be open to the idea that if the staff were smaller, salaries could be bigger.

Not for the first time, the BBC has made a set of proposals without disclosing the line of argument which informed them. It was a mistake which cost them dear at the time of *Broadcasting In The 70s*. The unions (and the

large number of professional people within the Corporation who do not belong to one) might be more easily won over to the package if it were clearly explained.

Some of the more obvious ways of saving money were excluded by the terms of reference. Local radio will clearly have to find its share of the £12.5 million saving being sought in regional broadcasting, but its future does not seem to have been called in question. Radio Stoke is no doubt already at work on this year's Send A Cow Appeal, a scheme supervised by the National Farmers' Union and the Church of Uganda which last year flew eight cows from North Staffordshire to Kampala.

The BBC's commitment to *perestroika* still seems more than a little equivocal. The doctrine of the primacy of the Party is not more dear to the Kremlin than the conviction within the Corporation that it should in some way be accepted as *primus inter pares* in the rapidly changing world of broadcasting.

That is an entirely respectable ambition, but it will not be seen as a realistic one until the BBC shows that it is genuinely concerned to reduce the range of its activities, in order to concentrate on achieving the excellence which licence-payers are entitled to expect. Mr Checkland does not make it easier for himself by saying, as he did last week, that the BBC must continue to assert its universality.

The Corporation has a right to expect some guidance in this from the Government, which in recent years has sometimes seemed to play a cat and mouse game with it. The main burden, however, rests on the governors. They should not wait too long before calling for answers to the urgent editorial questions which lay outside the Phillips terms of reference.

POWDER KEG IN KASHMIR

In just a matter of weeks the crisis in Kashmir has become India's priority problem. The province is in revolt, its cities are under curfew and only the army is maintaining order. Comparing Kashmir with the Punjab — the province which dominated the country in the 1980s — it is clear that, whereas the majority of Sikhs believe their grievances can be resolved within the Indian constitution, Kashmiri Muslims are questioning the constitution itself.

In 1947 when pre-independence India was partitioned into two sovereign states, the then Maharajah played for time in the hope of securing Kashmir's independence. But when Pakistani-supported infiltrators threatened the province's security he hastily acceded to India. Special constitutional arrangements were devised for Indian Kashmir and, although Pakistan still disputes the accession, under Sheikh Abdullah and later his son, Faroukh, the province's incorporation into India was accepted as a fait accompli.

It was party politics under Mrs Gandhi and her son, Rajiv, which created the present crisis. In Faroukh Abdullah India had a popular politician firmly committed to the Union, but Indira Gandhi refused to accept his support of the opposition to her and sought to dismiss his government. The result was widespread disenchantment in Kashmir and the belief that Delhi was determined to undermine its distinct position.

It was the kidnapping of the Home Minister's daughter by Kashmiri separatists, within days of the new Indian prime minister, Mr V. P. Singh, assuming office, which revealed the extent of the crisis. The decision to release five terrorists in return for her became a rallying point for the separatist cause. Popular demonstrations paralysed the Kashmir Valley.

By then Mr Abdullah's dismissal was inevitable, but it may also have become too late for direct control by Delhi. The protests are proof of the Kashmiri Muslims' political disenchantment and of the power of the separatist groups, who are feared more than the police or army. All of this is fertile ground for Islamic fundamentalism.

Pakistan is the other dimension. For Islamabad the crisis offers an opportunity to revoke Kashmir's accession to India. For Miss Bhutto, weakened by her government's poor performance and under attack for her initial rapprochement with Delhi, it is a chance to score points. The succour the separatists receive for their sanctuaries inside Pakistan, and Islamabad's determination to internationalize their cause, can only add to Delhi's difficulties.

For the moment no long-term solution can be envisaged. With Mr Abdullah and his National Conference unable to win (his success in the 1987 elections was widely thought to have been rigged), fresh elections are unlikely to produce a stable government. With the different Islamic fundamentalist, separatist and opportunist groups as divided from one another as they are from Delhi, an inconclusive result might only exacerbate the problem. The more often Indian soldiers fire on Kashmiri crowds, the more likely they are to inflame popular anger.

However, it is the deterioration in relations between Delhi and Islamabad which could push both countries to the brink. Though neither want confrontation, both are being propelled by domestic pressures towards belligerent postures. The sub-continent's history of mutual suspicion has already led to three Indo-Pakistan wars. Let us hope that 1990 will not see the fourth.

An ill-wind for property owners

From Mr K. V. Prichard Jones
Sir, In the hurricane of October, 1987, our estate suffered extensive damage and lost about 400 trees. Twenty-six out of 70 limes in our avenue and many trees of various types in our park crashed to the ground. Rather than turn those trees into timber, we hired a large crane and earthmoving equipment, polliarded all the important fallen trees and raised most of them again.

We were not very optimistic but almost all the trees so treated, including all of the limes, seem to have survived and appear to be growing strongly. Their damaged root systems are gently sealing back into the ground. They sturdily withstood the latest storm whilst many nearby trees fell or lost large limbs.

Hearing on the radio that, in some botanical gardens, rare trees have again fallen, I suggest that the owners consider lifting them as an experiment. It is an expensive process but justifiable in the case of specimen trees or valuable groups.

As our climate appears to be changing to one of hot summers, warm winters, and occasional raging storms, can any of your readers suggest varieties of tree which would thrive in that more challenging environment? I have not yet seen a fallen Wellingtonia and our own only suffer peripheral damage in gales despite their great height. Must we now look to the Americas for trees to survive occasional hurricanes?

Yours faithfully,
K. V. PRICHARD JONES,
Field Place,
Warrnam, West Sussex.

From Mr George Levy
Sir, You report (January 27) the "total devastation" of trees ravaged by hurricane-force winds in southern England and Wales which tragically included almost the entire historic grounds at Stonor Park — still owned by a trust for the family which does not have the benefit of a direct grant from the Government for repairs (apart from buildings).

The unique footpath normally open to the public 24 hours a day throughout the year and enjoyed annually by thousands of visitors is now sadly surrounded by the carnage of at least 200 trees, landscaped in the eighteenth century.

May I therefore suggest that the National Heritage Memorial Fund might perhaps consider assisting with the enormous cost of restoring Stonor, and other similar historic listed gardens as it did in 1967, but this time with the help of public donations to the fund.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
H. Blairmore & Sons,
119 Mount Street, W1,
January 28.

From Miss Jane M. Reynolds
Sir, It would be interesting to learn how much damage to person and property during the recent storm was caused by trees which had preservation orders attached to them.

Many trees are prevented from being lopped or topped to a safe height due to indiscriminate application of these orders. This means a super-abundance of elderly trees and a scarcity of new ones to take their place. It also means more damage as nature demolishes the elderly or damaged trees.

It follows that many people are faced with repair bills which could have been avoided had they been allowed to maintain their trees in a sensible manner.

Yours faithfully,
JANE REYNOLDS,
Sandal, 68 Firs Road,
West Merses,
Colchester, Essex.

From Mr Graham Nock
Sir, In view of the already publicly accepted terminology used to describe the storms of yesterday and October, 1987, i.e. "hurricanes", can the Met Office not give them personal names as is done in the Far East, Australia, and the US?

However, in the interests of sexual equality, I suppose that if the 1987 hurricane is christened "Albert", then yesterday's storm needs to be named "Brenda", or "Bertha" perhaps, as it was a big one.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM NOCK,
39 Denham Lodge,
Denham,
Uxbridge, Middlesex,
January 26.

From Mr Mark Hepworth
Sir, After Thursday's storm, which blew two man-sized holes in my roof, I listened with interest to experts from various insurance companies who appeared on television.

Several of them advised people like me, so as to avoid further damage, to cover the roof with a large tarpaulin at once.

How exactly, even supposing I had one?

Yours faithfully,
MARK HEPWORTH,
3 Coastguard Cottages,
Langstone,
Havant, Hampshire,
January 26.

From Mr Lester May
Sir, It is clear that rubbish can be dangerous, not just unsightly. In Thursday's storm I was frequently "attacked" by flying litter.

Britain should be ashamed of itself at the start of Tidy Britain Year.

Yours tidily,
LESTER MAY,
24 Reachview Court, NW1,
January 26.

Getting women back to work

From Mrs Frances Bennett
Sir, Vernon Bogdanor in his article, "Winning women to work" (January 22), records the disappointing statistic that only 2 per cent of Civil Service permanent secretaries are women. I wonder what percentage of executive officers are women who have returned to work?

The Civil Service sets an exacting selection examination followed, if the applicant is successful in the exam, by an interview before a panel of three. Should the applicant fail this interview and wish to apply for a post in a different area of the Civil Service, the selection examination must be retaken, even though the candidate may have a degree and other qualifications normally accepted throughout the land.

Apert from being a futile waste of Civil Service time, this procedure is guaranteed to deter all but the most determined returner — and has not been proved to create a bureaucracy that is second to none. I can think of no other examinations which have to be retaken in this way. Nothing could be more demotivating for women wishing to return to work.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES BENNETT,
3 Clarendon Way,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
January 23.

From Mrs Marjorie Seldon
Sir, A member for many years of a women's organisation committed to the welfare of women and the family (National Council of Women), I cannot agree with Mr Vernon Bogdanor's contention that the Government should provide more crèches and that firms should be strictly monitored in their provision of child care for female staff. If firms like Marks & Spencer find that it is consistent with the market principles of a successful business to provide child care, there is no need for "monitoring".

Child care vouchers to enable women to pay for privately provided nursery care are an option which would give mothers a choice between competing services and would benefit women in a wider social spectrum than any form of tax concession. Whether they would lead to more women becoming members of Parliament or Civil Service permanent secretaries is uncertain, for many highly intelligent and well educated women find it rewarding to look after their children themselves and they do not feel that they are therefore less valuable to the community.

It is a matter of opinion whether

Science too pure?

From Mr Stephen Bragg, FEng
Sir, Mr John Bercow (January 19) suggests that Government funding of research should be contingent on winning matching funds from private enterprise. A rather similar proposal was made by the working group set up by the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development and the Advisory Board for the Research Councils under the chairmanship of Sir Alan Muir Wood in 1982.

The first of the principal recommendations in their report, *Improving research links between higher education and industry*, was that higher education institutions should automatically receive 25p from the Government for every £1

earned from contract work. The aim was both to encourage collaboration with industry and to provide "free" money to carry out the fundamental work on which the next generation of contracts would be based.

We would have liked to recommend a pound for pound grant but were worried that this would require too big a change in current arrangements. This recommendation was never adopted — nor to my knowledge was any official response to the report ever made — though some of its other proposals seem eventually to have taken effect.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BRAGG,
22 Brookside,
Cambridge,
January 22.

A new Europe

From Mr Cosmo Russell
Sir, Dr Robert O'Neill, in his thoughtful article, "Forum for a new Europe" (January 22), ignores the existing home for Europe old and new — the Council of Europe at Strasbourg. This has been awaiting the readiness of Eastern European countries to join since 1950 when it instituted a Committee of Nations not represented, chaired initially by Mr Harold Macmillan. Since that time council membership has grown from 10 members in 1949 to 23 in 1989, when it celebrated its 40th anniversary.

With acceptance of Article 2 of the Statute of the Council of Europe six Eastern European countries would agree to the protection of human rights and be ready in due course to sign the European Convention of 1950. They would also be eligible to join the Council of Europe as full members. So they would fall within the framework of European unity, as originally hoped and intended.

Yours faithfully,
COSMO RUSSELL,
Parapet House,
Lanham, Kent,
January 22.

Prolific artist

From Mr G. S. Whitteit
Sir, The late Charles Spence (Salerno, January 19) was active until the late 1950s. I first noted his meticulous *troupe l'oeil* interiors in the RA Summer Exhibition of 1951 and mentioned them in my reviews of the annual event in *The Studio* each year until his death — 1958.

Though he possessed only one arm he was prolific in his output that ranged from full-length mayoral portraits to one miniature portrait of George V (14in. by 11in.) commissioned by Queen Mary for her Doll's House!

Yours etc.,
GEORGE S. WHITTEIT,
5 Fisherman's Walk,
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex,
January 20.

devotion to private life and the family is not more worthy than public service which is not always wholly selfless and beneficent — an aspect not raised by Mr Bogdanor.

Yours truly,
MARJORIE SELDON,
The Thatched Cottage,
Godden Green,
Sevenoaks, Kent,
January 23.

From Ms Cynthia Ashton
Sir, I must take Vernon Bogdanor to task for giving emphasis to the provision of nurseries and child care. Nurseries are only of value for women with pre-school children. What about the majority of us with school age children who want to work but insist on being home in the after-school hours so that we have some time to spend with our children?

When part-time work becomes respectable, and fairly paid, then women will have gone a long way toward gaining real work opportunities.

Sincerely,
CYNTHIA ASHTON,
Bettleside House,
Aldworth Road,
Stratford,
Reading, Berkshire,
January 23.

From Mrs S. Gild
Sir, Mr Michael Howard proposes (report, January 22) that more women should be enticed back to work "through the provision of crèches, flexible hours of work and holidays, and career breaks".

Although entirely in favour of any scheme that would relieve some of the pressures on a working mother, I have serious misgivings about the ethics — and efficacy — of this type of positive sex discrimination. There can be no prospect of equality of pay, far less status, for women working part-time in professions where the norm is a commitment to a long office day, often followed by late business meetings. This "norm" may only be achieved at the cost of lost involvement in one's children's formative years.

Surely it makes economic sense that employers should be encouraged to encourage flexibility of working hours and leave not only to working mothers but to parents, so that the burdens — and joys — of child care could be shared between those whose responsibility it is.

Yours sincerely,
S. GILD,
Ealing College of Higher Education,
Department of Law,
St Mary's Road,
Ealing, W5,
January 23.

earned from contract work. The aim was both to encourage collaboration with industry and to provide "free" money to carry out the fundamental work on which the next generation of contracts would be based.

We would have liked to recommend a pound for pound grant but were worried that this would require too big a change in current arrangements. This recommendation was never adopted — nor to my knowledge was any official response to the report ever made — though some of its other proposals seem eventually to have taken effect.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BRAGG,
22 Brookside,
Cambridge,
January 22.

This language appears to be mandatory. Litigants pay a terrible price to get to the House of Lords. Why should they be humble and ever pray when all they are doing is exercising their rights? If respect for the law and our highest court is to be encouraged then its prescribed combination of insult and servility will not help.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER HART
(Solicitor),
1 Churchfields,
Laifouder, Mullion,
Helston, Cornwall.

Museum charges

From Mrs Wendy Clegg
Sir, I have read with interest the articles and letters regarding British museums charging for entry.

Just after Christmas we took our two children up to the Imperial War Museum. On our arrival we were charged £7.50 (two adults and two children); however that was not all. In order for the children to visit the "Blitz experience" section we had to pay a further £3.

When the cost of visiting the museum is added to the train fare of £28.20 and a meal the overall cost is about £60. Is it any wonder that the number of visitors to the London museums is falling? I am afraid to say that we will not be repeating the trip in the summer.

Yours sincerely,
W. CLEGG,
The Vicarage, 35 Stanley Avenue,
Mile Oak, Portlady,
Brighton, East Sussex.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Priorities in NHS reforms

From Mr G. S. Banwell
Sir, During December, at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, I found myself obliged to treat a girl of 15 with a miscarriage and a woman of 60 with advanced malignant disease, in the same open portion of a mixed-sex ward. The health authority had instructed its managers to close beds to reduce the current overspending, including the only designated gynaecological ward in the district. Further restrictions in services for women are under consideration.

Representations to local MPs (both Conservative) are met with the promise of improvement when the proposed reforms are enacted by Parliament, with no immediate relief. Mr Ronald Butt's article of January 11, "How to bring socialism back from the dead", has relevance.

Yours faithfully,
G. S. BANWELL,
The Red House, Bell Street,
Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire,
January 24.

From the Director of Age Concern England
Sir, Debate on the NHS and Community Care Bill will shortly reach the all-important subject of local availability of services. The outcome of the debate has particular implications for elderly people who are generally less able to travel long distances and who are more likely to need long-term outpatient treatment.

Whilst accepting that it may not be practical for all services to be provided in all areas, many geriatric services such as long-stay care, respite care, and psycho-geriatric nursing, need to be provided by every district health authority.

The outcome of this debate will go far to determining the whole structure of the reformed NHS, and therefore we urge the Government to allow a free and full debate on this issue and in particular, to take into account the special needs of elderly people.

Yours sincerely,
SALLY GREENGROSS,
Director,
Age Concern England,
60 Fitcham Road,
Mitcham, Surrey.

Cross-media limits

From Lord Bessborough
Sir, On January 24 you carried a report which indicated that the Labour Party, if elected to Government, planned to use the powers granted to the Home Secretary in the Broadcasting Bill to impose limits on cross-media ownership to force News International to choose between its holdings in newspapers and Sky Television.

Personally — having always been an advocate of wider choice in broadcasting — I believe that, notwithstanding the particular interests of News International, such an approach would be fundamentally wrong.

Viewers must be able to choose from the widest selection of new television services, without the possibility that a future government could restrict that choice through the arbitrary application of ownership rules that have no relevance in the multi-channel broadcasting system being created by Sky, BS2, and others.

It would be dangerous to pass a Bill which would allow any government to intimidate media owners with whom it disagreed.

I believe that it is essential that the Government should amend the Bill to ensure that those investing in high-risk media ventures would not see their investment wiped out overnight.

For this reason I personally hope that Parliament will ensure that those who are legitimately awarded licences under the 1990 Broadcasting Act will be protected against the possibility, no matter how remote, that another Government could arbitrarily and retrospectively change the rules.

Yours faithfully,
BESSBOROUGH,
House of Lords,
January 26.

Fur coat qualms

From Mr J. O. Carter
Sir, Jane Biddler's qualms (Monday, January 22) about wearing her fur coat are not yet shared by the Russians. A young lady from Moscow, who stayed here recently, was delighted to purchase a fine fur coat from the local charity shop for £10. She assured me that it would cost more than a thousand roubles in the commission shop in Moscow. At whatever exchange you choose still a reasonable sum of money, and for her a magnificent present for her mother.

Yours faithfully,
J. O. CARTER,
7 Oaktree Close,
Virginia Water, Surrey.

Cheek to cheek

From Dr J. R. O'Brien
Sir, Men, whether left or right-handed, using a safety razor, generally hold it in the dominant hand. Lathering apart, shaving this way used to take me 2½ minutes. I have now learnt to shave with both hands at once, using two razors and halving the time involved. In one year I now save approximately seven hours and four minutes. I recommend this time-saving technique to all shaving men.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. O'BRIEN,
Glebe Cottage,
Droxford, Hampshire.

THE ARTS

Messages from a madhouse

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Last night's Screen Two *Drowning in the Shallow End* (BBC 2), was an immensely impressive television debut as author by Leigh Jackson, the kind of film that 20 years ago would probably have been shot by Joseph Losey from a screenplay by Harold Pinter. Set in an all-too-recognizable modern-media London, it involved Paul McCann (from *The Monocled Mannequin*) as a blocked screenwriter, hopelessly caught up with an unfaithful wife and a doomed project. This was to turn the Pilgrims into an American television mini-series, for a group of manic evangelists and a producer who reckoned that the rats on the Mayflower might prove a natural ratings-grabber.

Veering from bleak comedy to black farce, Jackson's film was most notable for the opportunities it afforded a group of the best character actors in the country. Liz Smith was the showbiz agent so bored by her playrights that she could not even look at their faces. Tony Slattery was the trendy but accident-prone producer; Phoebe Nicholls (from *Bridget Jones's Diary*) was the upwardly mobile ex-wife; Olivier Pierre was the overweight evangelist, objecting that there should be more Americans on the Mayflower; and Alfred Molina was the wife's cheery Italian lover.

All were studies in contemporary media angst, and managed to make believable a bunch of characters whose emotional lives resembled Mexico City after the earthquake. It was a sassy, icy picture of the kind of people who live under such artistic and romantic and financial pressure that they self-destruct every time a telephone rings.

Also buried somewhere in its urban emotional wasteland were brief attacks on the inhospitability of the Royal Court Theatre and the pretensions of country-house hotels which are not so much quiet as totally mute. Jackson may still be a little shaky on plot and resolution, but his dialogue has the self-parodying edge of the very best; judged as a *Design for Living* of the 1990s, his film was as witty as it was deeply unnerving. The director was Colin Gregg and the producer Sani Hashi.

Earlier on BBC 2, Anthony Sampson's *The Miles Touch* settled down into a cogently argued series about money, people, and power. It focused this week on the yen for the Yen and specifically the way in which material wealth and traditional Japanese values now make for an uneasy Tokyo marriage. Sampson's new *Anatomy* touched all the right oriental bases, and if his own television manner has the slightly archaic charm of a benevolent schoolmaster, doing his best to keep us awake at the back of the class during the boring bits, there were few enough of those.

His conclusion was that in trying to internationalize itself after centuries of isolation, Japan has chosen the all-purpose all-powerful language of pure cash. This is a brisk, international economic digest.

Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance Company makes its American debut, but Charles Marowitz is unimpressed by the first offerings

The most remarkable thing about Kenneth Branagh is that he managed to raise \$7.5m for a film version of *Henry V*. This gives him the kind of charisma that seems to attach itself to entrepreneurs who, at a very young age, appear to have a charmed life. What made the film remarkable was that it had the strongest supporting cast of any Shakespearean ever filmed, while Branagh's interpretation of the title role created a dramatically viable alternative to Olivier's.

Branagh, whose company is under the patronage of the Prince of Wales and the paternalistic supervision of the ex-director of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, is a child of the Establishment. He appears to have evolved an attractive dogma: that outside directors are not to be trusted and it is much better to let actors fend for themselves.

The Renaissance Theatre Company's season at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles severely tests the cogency of that theory. Although Branagh is stipulated in the programme, the guiding hand or conceptualizing mind of a director is nowhere in evidence.

The company, an ill-assorted mixture of anonymous men and women whom I found unattractive, gambol through *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as though they had stumbled upon the masterpiece for the first time. Cavouring before an astral backdrop punctured with star-shaped holes (the designer is Jenny Tiramani) they vie for audience approval by projecting high spirits and undisciplined physicality.

In a rough-and-tumble way, the comedy scenes work most of the time, but the metaphysical aspect

Is that all there is?

Bumptious Bottom: Richard Briers (centre) surrounded by members of the Renaissance Company in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Los Angeles

of the play is given as a pseudo-lyrical mish-mash with every fairy-land cliché in the book. The lovers are uniformly brash, and no distinction is drawn between the court of Theseus and Hippolyta and the underworld royalty of Oberon and Titania.

The actors, presumably guided by their own natural instincts, have based the mechanicals on the stock members of a British amateur dramatic society which, though unoriginal, is intermittently amusing. The best thing about the evening is that it is

crowned with an upbeat Cochran musical revue finale.

Richard Briers, in the role closest to his talents, is a nicely bumptious Bottom and extracts a lot of in-group comedy from the rehearsal scenes and, in particular, his rivalry with Peter Quince.

But the following day, with a hubris insupportable in a low-brow farceur, Briers gives us his pint-size interpretation of *King Lear*. He is a peppery old potentate, apparently directly descended from King Gama in *Princess Ida*, who seems to have

spawned two daughters (Francine Morgan and Siobhan Redmond) as cantankerous and spiteful as himself. Ethna Roddy's Cordelia looks and sounds as though Popeye's Olive Oyl had wandered out of the comic books and into a Jacobean masterpiece.

Lear's descent, in Briers's interpretation, is not from the hierarchical to the terrestrial, but from the ground floor into the basement. In a cruel perversion of the sympathy this character usually incites, we are delighted to see him soaked by the rainstorm and pray

fondly that a double-pneumonia will carry him off. The evening's *coup de théâtre* is a circular spray of "real" rainfall which, as is always the case when reality intrudes upon illusion, tends to emphasize the artifice of everything around it.

Neither Briers nor Branagh has anything to tell us about *King Lear*, other than that it is a great play easily mangled by actors' self-indulgence and trivialized by a repertory mentality which views it only as a series of comic or tragic vignettes. In a very real sense, this

becomes a play about artistic inadequacy trying to come to grips with a masterpiece that eludes it at every turn.

Branagh, whose smarmy, rough-hewn, acerbic manner would have been perfect for Edmund, has miscast himself as Edgar, and done nothing more with the role than project the traditional tomfoolery of Poor Tom. One never for a moment believes in his filial attachment to Gloucester nor his manipulation at the hands of an overly-obvious Edmund (Simon Roberts).

Emma Thompson, a serviceable though over-stated Helena, is ludicrous and humorless as a squat, hunch-backed load of a Fool. Her contact with Lear is peripheral and she seems to exist mainly as an actress's far-fetched conception arbitrarily tacked on to a few conundrums and philosophical ditties.

There being no intellectual framework, the storm is merely a meteorological event and Lear's trial of his daughters in the howl scene a madman's aberration, with no philosophical overtones. Anything that came to mind seems to have been incorporated and, unfortunately, the collective consciousness of the company seems to be entirely soaked with the obvious and the banal.

The reviews in Los Angeles have been cool and polite. Branagh is still basking in the glow of his *Henry V* and the city is filled with culture-vultures who, as far as classical work is concerned, simply cannot distinguish gems from paste. Branagh should bang his filmic drum as loud as he can. It may obliterate the irritating static generated by this slipshod *Dream* and bathetic *Lear*.

Bold, flawed debut, with emperor as brat

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Britannicus
Crucible Studio,
Sheffield

Not for nothing is Racine known as the great untranslatable and unstageable. It takes a good deal to bring him to life; and it soon became clear that some of the Crucible's first-night audience felt a good deal was not what they were getting. Starting with two puzzled Japanese gentlemen in the front row, the spectators continued to thin until the second half. Presumably they saw no reason to stick around for a lesson in classical history delivered in long, somewhat stilted speeches.

If so, it was a pity, because Racine's study of the blooding of a tyrant is as fascinating as anything he wrote, and everyone at Sheffield has made strenuous efforts to liberate it from its 17th-century constraints. Sian Evans's translation is direct, speakable and, on the whole, well spoken. David

Fielding, the director-cum-designer, has done almost too well to suggest that the young Nero's shady world is also our own.

He has transformed the all-purpose anteroom of neo-classical drama into what might be some still-undiscovered part of the Barbican car-park or a palatial bunker built for the late President Ceausescu. Neon light illuminates the graffiti, and throws great shadows on the concrete as it plays

on a red-trousered Nero and the mother and brother-in-law he will soon decide to ruin, Agrippina and Britannicus.

It is sinister, but also odd, as some of the confrontations Fielding has concocted. He is right to opt for a more physically volatile production than Racine usually receives - touching, grappling, even a knee in the groin for Guy Scantlebury's Britannicus - but wrong not to have kept it in moderation. To put Jamie Newall's Nero in a hot, sexual clinch with Paola Dionisotti's Agrippina is over-obviously (and inaccurately) to signal "corruption of Rome".

Again, it may be exciting to end with the killer-emperor triumphantly using his henchmen for transport, with gaudy streamers as reins; but it is hard to credit the histrionics of the losers, one of

whom does a slow, stricken breast-stroke across the floor.

The truth is that Fielding is a seasoned designer, but has chosen a uniquely challenging author for what is in fact his directing debut. But if he has not always found a balance between the real and the stylized, he has staged some powerful human encounters. Dionisotti, for instance, blazes with the willfulness which Newall, as interestingly, represses.

This is a striking young actor, new to me. With his clammy pallor, seething temper, and rather similar looks, his Nero might be some imperial John McEneaney manoeuvring through the early stages of the ultimate tennis tournament. He means to be good, or thinks he does; but you know a lot of rivals and umpires are going to suffer before he is through.

Plenty of life in the many characters on view

Eugene O'Neill's mighty masterpiece is famously long, its first half alone longer than many modern plays. Its second half too, for that matter, which suggests a simple way of advertising it: two plays for the price of one.

For the producer the mathematics are more complicated, since the play calls for 19 actors, a size of cast seen nowadays only in lavishly funded companies touring Shakespeare. A couple of the actors play detectives and appear just towards the end; the others figure in all four acts, two of them

remaining on stage throughout.

The logistics of such an arduous enterprise, and not its length, explain why productions of this great play are mounted only about once a decade - never before in Belfast and only once in Dublin.

It is precisely from the grand scale of its conception that the work develops its powerful hold. In the back room of Harry Hope's seedy hotel, on the lower West Side in 1912, a one-time circus hand, a busted policeman, a Boer general and a dozen other

drowned wrecks find daily contentment at the bottom of a bottle.

A reference is eventually made to the bottom of the sea but long beforehand the image has been suggested in Roland Jaqueiro's fine and steady production, where his cast sit around their tables on a

Jeremy Kingston

The Iceman Cometh
Lyric Players',
Belfast

set by Alison Bockh that allows light to filter faintly through blind-covered windows.

The rich characterization creates a detailed fragment of society, each individual sustained by what O'Neill calls a pipe-dream, the absurd belief that tomorrow the circus hand will look for work, the policeman will win back his job, the Boer will find his passage home, the proletarian will triumph, the clear-eyed affection, alert to the mechanisms of self-deception, and with that amalgam of pity and comedy that sometimes seems unique to Irish writers.

The pipe-dreams are roughly blown away by the salesman Hickey (Peter Marinker, treacherously smiling) who urges them to see the truth about themselves. Jaquero imaginatively orchestrates the comic calamity of this, opening the last act with Hickey's pole-axed victims tightly grouped down stage staring aghast at their empty futures.

Only after Hickey's "Iceman" confession - a solo that could be trimmed to advantage - do the deadbeats recover their nerve and break into a cacophony of a dozen different sorts. It is a happy ending of sorts.

Notable in the distinguished ensemble of players are Ray Callaghan's Harry, anxious and fidgeting behind his steel-rimmed specs, Eric Loren's bartender pimp and the anchor-like presence of Liam O'Callaghan's Larry, movingly discovering emotion at the cost of peace of mind.

Stuart Cassidy also made a promising debut as the hero Colas. David Buntley's touchy, fussy, concerned widow Simone is as good as any, with Jonathan Burrows's solemnly witty playing in the same role not far behind.

Leslie Edwards's perennially jovial urbanity as the old vineyard owner, Thomas, survives from the 1960 premiere, and Robert Jude now tactfully fills out the tiny role of the village notary with quiet humour.

Shared celebration

CONCERTS

Noël Goodwin

LSO/Brymer Birthday
Barbican Hall

He has been called "everyone's favourite clarinetist", and for most of his 75 years Jack Brymer has been at the peak of his profession. Fourteen of those years were spent as principal clarinet of the London Symphony Orchestra, whom he rejoined on Saturday night. They made him work harder than ever for his special birthday concert, parts of which were tele-recorded for a future BBC programme.

Brymer observed that his birthday happens to be shared by Mozart, whose 234th anniversary it was, and who provided the entire programme. The clarinetist featured in three of the four works, and even gave the downbeat to launch an otherwise conductorless *Figaro* overture at the start.

Besides the Concerto and the Quintet, peerless solo clarinet works, he joined three of the LSO's present principals for the Sinfonia Concertante in E flat (K297b) for four wind-instrument soloists, which is "authentic"

Mozart only on the basis of probabilities, but which one would not happily see attributed elsewhere. This became, in effect, a civilized instrumental conversation piece, in which Roy Carter (oboe), Martin Gant (bassoon) and Hugh Seaman (horn) exchanged ideas as well as discreet virtuosity with Brymer.

His account of the Clarinet Concerto has long been a classic in its sheer elegance of phrase and pearly tone. We heard again the familiar touches of a plunge into a downward scale, like a diver from a springboard, and the subtle varied dynamics when the same phrase is repeated. But now he seemed to bring a more poignant wistfulness to the music's poetry.

That certainly enriched the Quintet, which Brymer recalled being asked to play as a greynose student feeling puzzled as to who the four other clarinetists might be. Here he shared the wonder of the music with the Gabrieli Quartet, whose first violin, John Georgiadis, it was a particular pleasure to welcome back to lead and direct the orchestral works too; proving that the chap who sometimes stands in front of them with a baton is not always as essential as some - especially some principal conductors - would like to think.

devil or fool. But happily there were also more substantial things.

Jacques Dupuy's *La Forqueray* was heard in Koopman's hands to be a lavish, richly eloquent piece that exploited to the full the deep sonorities of the larger of the two harpsichords Koopman used, while Rameau's *L'Enharmonique*, as its title suggests, was garnished with some strange but beautiful twists and turns, equally intense in its interpretation. From the 17th century there was also Louis Couperin's great C minor Chaconne, as well as Sweelinck's broad, moving *Pavana Lachrymae*, based on the same theme Dowland used. It was music like this that brought out the real musician in Koopman.

It was a pity that the lavish programme booklet contained only promotional essays (in four languages) and no information whatsoever about the wide range of music Koopman played, though as it turned out the first half was of music from the 17th century, the second that from the 18th century. Even those to whom names like those of Forqueray, Picchi or Cabanilles are familiar need a little reminder of who, when and where.

Stephen Pettitt

Ton Koopman
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Ton Koopman's style, whether he is conducting or, as here, playing the harpsichord, is unequivocally flamboyant. Consequently, sometimes when it comes to getting the notes right there is an element of doubt; Koopman never restricts his tempos for the sake of accuracy.

Since for the most part his fingers are up to the demands his mind places on them, this does not always matter. What does give cause for concern, not least for the physical well-being of the harpsichord, is the way he viciously attacks the instrument whenever he gets really excited, in a piece like, for instance, Johann Kasper Kerll's *La Battaglia*. The resulting sound is not louder or brighter, merely accompanied by an ugly, dull thud as the key reaches its lowest point.

Despite that misgiving, it was difficult not to be swallowed up in Koopman's almost demented enthusiasm in the fester pieces, where he relished playing dare-

Ashton's favourite girl

DANCE

John Percival

La Fille mal gardée
Covent Garden

Frederick Ashton's best-loved daughter celebrated her 30th birthday on Sunday. Like is the heroine of *La Fille mal gardée*, premiered at Covent Garden on January 28, 1960, and by far the most successful creation, ballet or opera, which that theatre has seen in this half-century or longer.

Ashtone inherited the plot and the characters by a direct tradition from Jean Dauberval, who first staged the ballet at Bordeaux in 1789. Dozens of choreographers and ballet masters have kept it alive in their own versions since then, some of the details in Ashton's production go back at least 100 years, probably longer.

But the reason why his *Fille* is much the best of modern times is that he took the inspiration for his treatment from another work of the French revolutionary period. The freshness and simplicity of the ballet, its colour and liveliness, come directly from Ashton's enjoyment of Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony.

Also, he drew on more than one theatrical style. Widow Simone, Lise's mother, is traditionally played by a man (a ballet practice as respectable as "trouser roles" for women in opera), but Ashton's way of having the role played, with sharp regard for womanly ways of movement and behaviour, but never pretending that the performer is anything but a man, come directly from the English

music-hall still flourishing in his youth.

He had inspired collaborators, too: John Lanchbery (who conducts the present revival) to arrange a score mostly from early sources, and Osbert Lancaster to create designs which bring to life the freshness and naivety of old French hand-coloured prints. And, above all, Ashton made the ballet for an ideal cast, giving two dancers of exceptional brilliance, Nadia Nerina and David Blair, the greatest roles as the lovers, and two marvellous comics, Stanley Holden and Alexander Grant, every scope as the mother and the simpleton rival suitors.

When the ballet was new, it was difficult to imagine it without them, but dozens of dancers have followed them with success, so well drawn are the characters and so challenging the dances.

Viviana Durante and Erol Pickford, who danced the leads for the first time last week, are up among the best of the ballet's interpreters; lively, charming and convincing; she bringing amazing speed and accuracy to all that neat, intricate footwork, he bounding with amazing lightness through his solos.

Stuart Cassidy also made a promising debut as the hero Colas. David Buntley's touchy, fussy, concerned widow Simone is as good as any, with Jonathan Burrows's solemnly witty playing in the same role not far behind.

Leslie Edwards's perennially jovial urbanity as the old vineyard owner, Thomas, survives from the 1960 premiere, and Robert Jude now tactfully fills out the tiny role of the village notary with quiet humour.

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MONDAY PAGE

The daughters of Islam

Can Muslim women enjoy Western-style success and still keep the faith?
Geraldine Bedell reports

Rana Kabbani has every right to feel schizophrenic: she is a successful woman, and a Muslim. How can this be, when Muslim girls are kept from school whenever possible, instructed not to look men in the eye, and quite possibly even circumcised?

Kabbani has a PhD from Cambridge. She has written a couple of books, which are published by Virago. She is married to Patrick Seale, the English writer, and goes to London dinner parties. But when she had a baby she stayed indoors for 40 days, and served sweetmeats to the procession of women who came to visit. She is still disconcerted by the relaxed - even rude - way British parents and children talk to each other. She prefers extended families to the often explosive nuclear version.

Being a Muslim does not mean to her being some kind of crazed fanatic. Not all Islamic customs, she points out, are hateful. Sexual segregation in childhood may, for example, give girls a breathing space to become more certain about sexual and social identity before they start dealing with boys. Protracted periods of mourning may help the bereaved come to terms with their loss. Growing up in an extended family may be healthy.

But only rarely, she finds, do British people think of such things when they consider Islam. Rather, they assume all Muslim men want their women veiled and to stay at home with the recipes and at least half a dozen children. She is often asked about Muslim female circumcision - which, as she points out in her recent book, *Letter to Christendom*, is in fact an African custom.

Kabbani feels her education and worldly success sit uneasily with



Outsider: Rana Kabbani, with Alexander, says she leads a double life. "No one wants to know your traditions"

British assumptions about her deprived background. "It is not at all inappropriate or difficult for Muslim women to be successful," she says. "I have always found great encouragement for girls to study and succeed."

But her sense of British distaste for Islam means she feels uncomfortable. "You end up leading a double life - in the home and outside it. My husband says I am two different people. I am afraid there is a wish to denigrate Islam in the West. No one wants to know about your traditions: it is more comfortable to believe that Christianity is better than Islam, that the West is more liberated, and that Western women have more opportunities."

Kabbani, who has a son, Alexander, aged two, and a daughter, Jasmine, aged four months, says her own family applauded her decision to go to Washington's Georgetown University, and then Cambridge.

But then, she is the daughter of a Syrian ambassador to Washington and the great niece of a past prime minister - hardly a parochial

background. Even so, she does not think her experience is unique. "My mother's cleaning lady feels just as ambitious for her own daughters."

Jasmine will be brought up a Muslim, but learn "as much as possible about other faiths. I want her to be a bridge, to live usefully in this country and still have a link with the culture I come from."

If the British make successful Muslims feel uncomfortable, it may be because their experience of Muslims is largely of a rural, poor, migrant population, which seems alien to their urban industrialized ways. Hayat Palumbo, a successful Lebanese businesswoman and the wife of Peter Palumbo, the Arts Council chairman, acknowledges that her background and a Paris education have made fitting in much easier.

"I don't think I'm a very good example of what it's like for Muslims in this country," she says. "Many British Muslims are extremely devout and extremely stupid. They don't appreciate how

open to interpretation the Koran is."

She does not resent British attitudes to Muslims, and has been ready to make compromises. She converted to Christianity when she married Palumbo, a Roman Catholic, and they have brought up their two children as Catholics.

Palumbo does not consider she has lost anything in becoming a successful woman in modern secular society. For others, though, it was a direct choice: East or West, different, sometimes opposing cultures, between which it was necessary, in the end, to choose.

Hanan al-Shaykh is a Lebanese Shia Muslim whose novel *The Story of Zahra*, about adultery and incest in a Muslim extended family, shocked the Islamic world. She says she wrote the book not to upset Muslims, but to express anxieties which are part of her ultimate rejection of Islam. "It seemed to me a very sad religion, full of weeping and waiting."

She cannot really see how a devout Muslim woman can be successful in the secular world:

"You aren't supposed to shake hands with a man, or be in a car with him; it is difficult to do business in those circumstances."

No doubt it is unfortunate for perceptions of Islam here that the rise of fundamentalism and the Salman Rushdie affair are reinforcing the stereotypes.

The recent case of the sisters banned from Altrincham Grammar School for wearing head scarves may have been a typical example of Western misunderstanding. The automatic assumption is that this custom is fanatical and retrograde," Kabbani says. "In fact, the *hijab* [headscarf] has been adopted as a symbol of feminism across the Muslim world. It is a way for women to say, 'I am a serious person. I don't want to be seen first and foremost as a sexual object.'"

The writer Leila Badawi points out, though, that since the *hijab* is all about modesty (it began with an injunction from Muhammad to cover their exposed breasts), and modesty is a cultural concept, it is debatable how appropriate it is for Altrincham.

Unarguably, Islam does give some men justification for mistreating women. Muneza Inan works in an Asian women's refuge and is involved with Women Against Fundamentalism. "Islam, like other religions, seeks to control women's lives," she says. "Segregated Islamic girls' schools are an attempt to control women's minds."

Kabbani does not dispute that there are abuses, less a matter of Islam than of patriarchy, which can also be found in other religions, such as Catholicism and Judaism. Meanwhile, westerners are so keen to saddle Islam with all their pet hates that they overlook the positive things - the centrality of the family, the support systems, the rituals which help order the chaos of modern life.

Kabbani, and other successful women, say they draw a great strength from their religion. They resent attempts to denigrate that experience. She acknowledges that there will always be Muslim husbands who would rather their women didn't work. "It's always easier for fathers than for husbands to support women's success. But Englishmen, Frenchmen and Japanese men would mostly prefer their wives not to work either - that's patriarchy. We all want a wife."

Winds with a message

The maligned 'yuppiephone' proves its worth by calming a village's fears

Modern communications throw up some odd situations: never more so than in disastrous weather. Thursday's gales meant tragedies to some and tiles off to others; but instant, efficient media coverage meant that we all knew the whole of it, and were alarmed *en masse*.

With a few curious exceptions, I, for instance, was one of eight adults escorting a school party to the National Theatre to see *Whale*. It is a rural Suffolk school, and many of the 45 children - from seven to 10 years old - had never been as far as London. David Holman's play is full of sound-effects of distant, howling Arctic wind: sitting placidly in our seats we failed to suspect how much of the howling was not actually supposed to be there. It seemed distinctly windy as we climbed aboard the coach to go home, and the children observed with a *frisson* of interest that a bollard had blown over.

What we did not know, as we crossed the river and showed the children the famous sights, was that the railways were closed and the trunk roads strewn with lorries, that the London Ambulance Service had advised nobody to go outdoors and that every land and sea rescue vehicle was working at full stretch. We opened the cheese sandwiches.

It did seem unusually slow getting through East London. So, since I happened to have brought a hand-held Cell-phone with me, we rang the headmaster to say we might be a bit late. To a background of singing children, the astonished headmaster heard us with passionate relief while we had been encoined in the Lyttelton Theatre, anxious parents had been ringing him.

The coachload, by this time munching Mrs Moore's homemade rock-cakes, crawled on through Essex commuterland. Thousands of stranded rail passengers hitchhiked by the roadside and jammed the pavements, prompting observations from the adults on the bus that the London rush-hour really did seem to be dreadful these days. We crawled onwards past toppled lorries and flashing police lights, slowed but not unduly inconvenienced by the Apocalypse. Periodically we rang again.

Finally the bus drew up at the school and the children hopped brightly out to be greeted by relieved parents and teachers. "Smashing day," one observed. Then we all went home and watched *News at Ten* and came over all faint, understanding at last the degree of fear that had gripped the village before we rang.

The point of this story is simply this: that we have all been sold the wrong idea about personal communications. I am ceaselessly teased for using a "yuppiephone", but without it, the panic at home would have been tenfold, as we disappeared into the much-reported national chaos for five hours.

The other part of the moral is that media coverage of bad winters, gales, crashes, riots and other disasters is becoming more and more efficient and more and more competitively overdramatized: the word "chaos" was widely used but it did not, by a long chalk, accurately describe London and the South-East last Thursday.

Therefore, the faster the new technology can produce individual call-out telephones at a decent price for everyone - as it has done with watches - the better. Next time the school goes on a trip anywhere, my telephone is going too, with or without me. At times, amid the riot of exciting media messages, the only relevant one is: "We're fine, Mum."

Libby Purves

INFORMATION SERVICE

Glittering and magical

In rehearsal: Charles Dale as Dromio and Mark Anstee as Antipholus in *The Comedy of Errors* at Coventry

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
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THEATRE
LONDON

★ **ASPECTS OF LOVE** Lloyd Webber musical based on a David Garnett novel: many of the songs are new. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry St. (01-839 5872). Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, £15-25.

★ **DIVERSIONS AND DELIGHTS** Oscar Wilde looks back on his life in Donald Sinden's one-man show. Limited season. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (01-839 4401). Tue, Wed, Fri 8pm, Mon-Sat 8pm, £5-15.

★ **A LIFE IN THE THEATRE** Danholm Elliott and Samuel West in Mander's study of an old actor and his ambitious junior: the players stronger than the play. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-839 2680). Tue, Wed, Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 4.30pm, £5-15.

★ **MISS SANOON** Great new musical, with Jonathan Pryce, thriller-sleaze. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 (01-836 8108). Tue, Wed, Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 4.30pm, £5-15.

★ **NOEL AND GERTIE** Patricia Hodge and Simon Cadell sing and dance in Sheridan Morley's trip down Memory Lane. Comedy Theatre, Panton St, London SW1 (01-830 2571). Tue, Wed, Fri 8pm, Mon-Sat 8pm, £5-15.

★ **THE PELICAN** Second in this theatre's occasional series of Strindberg's chamber plays: this one a melodrama of perverted mother love. Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pl, W1 (01-229 0706). Mon-Sat 8.45pm, £5.

★ **RETURN TO THE FOREBIDDEN PLANE** Cut his cranes. *The Tempest*, so it's not a rock 'n' roll into a crazy show. Cambridge Theatre, Seven Dials, WC2 (01-379 5299). Tue, Wed, Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 4.30pm, £5-15.

★ **SHIRLEY VALENTINE** Humish Gordon in Willy Russell's award-winning one-woman play in which a domestic woman triumphantly turns. De La Warr Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 5122). Tue, Wed, Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 4.30pm, £5-15.

★ **A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT** Transfer of hit show from the King's Head that catches the sound and feeling of a night out in 1984: clever songs by the Heather Brothers. Adelphi Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 5111). Tue, Wed, Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 4.30pm, £5-15.

★ **LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES** Adapted from the 19th-century French novel. Adelphi Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 5111). Tue, Wed, Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 4.30pm, £5-15.

★ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** The Phantom of the Opera. Adelphi Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 5111). Tue, Wed, Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 4.30pm, £5-15.

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Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-839 2444) ... ★ *Run For Your Wife*: Whitehall Theatre (01-867 1119) ... ★ *Starlight Express*: Apollo Victoria (01-828 6655).

OUT OF TOWN

LEICESTER: ★ *Naked*: Pirandello's wry play about a woman (Valerie Gogan) who tries in vain to become a romantic heroine. Haymarket Studio Theatre, Belgrave Gate (0533 539797). Mon-Thurs 7.45pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, £5.

FILMS

★ Also on national release
★ Advance booking possible

★ **AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS** (PG): Louis Malle's moving, semi-autobiographical drama, set in a provincial boarding school in the last months of the Second World War. Jaspard Manesse heads the young, non-professional cast (107 min). Cinema Premiere (01-839 4470). Progs 2.10, 4.30, 7.00, 9.25.

★ **BACK TO THE FUTURE II** (PG): Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd zip to-and-fro through the time spectrum; directed as before by Robert Zemeckis (108 min). Empire (01-437 1234). Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

★ **CASUALTIES OF WAR** (18): American atrocities in Vietnam, viewed with more thought than usual by director Brian Koppelman; with Michael J. Fox as the soldier standing apart from the brutal antics of Sean Penn. Odeon Kensington (01-602 8544). Progs 12.40, 3.20, 6.00, 8.40.

★ **ODON SWISS COTTAGE** (11-722 5805). Progs 2.10, 5.30, 8.00. Warner West End (01-498 0791). Progs 12.35, 3.05, 5.05, 8.35.

★ **WHITELIPS** (11-792 3303). Progs 11.00, 1.35, 4.10, 6.50, 9.20.

★ **CAT CHASER** (18): High-octane version of an Emory Leonard thriller, with Peter Onorati as a Florida hoodster sucked into a plot to rob a gangster of hidden money. With Kelly McGillis; director Abel Ferrara (83 min). Cannon Picture Palace (01-830 0631). Progs 1.55, 4.00, 6.05, 8.10, 10.20.

★ **DEAD POETS SOCIETY** (PG): Robin Williams as an English teacher who instils his pupils with a dangerous love of poetry (128 min). Cannon Picture Palace (01-830 0631). Progs 1.55, 4.00, 6.05, 8.10, 10.20.

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The English Shakespeare Company turn their attention from history to comedy with their new production *The Comedy of Errors*, opening tonight at the University of Warwick Arts Centre and then touring England, Scotland and Wales before flying off in May to Jerusalem and, all being well, to Moscow and Kiev. Founded in 1966, by Michael Bogdanov and Michael Pennington, the company's first productions were the two parts of *Henry IV* and *Henry V* and *Richard III* added at one end, and *Henry VI* and *Richard III* at the other. The full cycle of *The Wars of the Roses* toured nationally and internationally, winning awards for its production and performers.

3.30, 6.05, 8.40. Cannon Picture Palace (01-836 2448). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.05, 8.40. Late (01-727 4045). Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45.

★ **LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN** (18): Raw version of Hubert Hirst's novel of Brooklyn life, from the director of *Christiane F.* Ulrich Edel. With Stephen Lang, Jennifer Jason Leigh (102 min). Barbican (01-538 8891). Progs 3.00, 6.00, 8.30.

★ **ODON SWISS COTTAGE** (11-722 5805). Progs 2.10, 5.30, 8.00. Warner West End (01-498 0791). Progs 12.35, 3.05, 5.05, 8.35.

★ **WHITELIPS** (11-792 3303). Progs 11.00, 1.35, 4.10, 6.50, 9.20.

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★ **PLAEGAN PLAYERS**: The Plegan Piano Quartet offers Schubert's *Adagio* and Rondo D 487 and Fauré's *Quartet* Op 15. St Anne's and St Agnes's, Grosvenor St, London EC2 (01-373

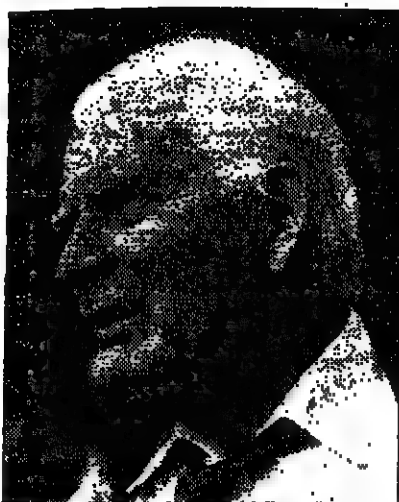
TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Rivals of the same school

Peter Waymark

At the outbreak of the Second World War the bombing of civilians was widely regarded as a crime perpetrated only by fascist regimes. By the end of the war a million German civilians had been killed in allied bombing attacks which destroyed more than 60 cities. But Albert Hunt's documentary, *Flying Schoolboys and the Wild Sow* (Channel 4, 11.05pm) is concerned less with scoring moral points than reliving the experience through the memories of bomber crews.



Ex-Luftwaffe colonel Hajo Herrmann: *Invented the Wild Sow* (Ch4, 11.05pm)

In any case, morality hardly came into it. One veteran recalls: "We were not human beings out to kill other human beings but schoolboys out to raid a rival school". The same man says he had no personal dislike of the Germans but they had to be beaten. The film balances British accounts with memories from the German side, particularly those of a Luftwaffe colonel whose 350 bombing missions included raids on London and Liverpool. (His invention of a form of defence known as the Wild Sow gives the film the second part of its title). Compared with the bombing of Dresden or of Pforzheim, where nearly 16,000 people died in just 20 minutes, British cities got off lightly. A woman survivor of Dresden recalls the firestorm which set her hair and clothing alight and of running to the river to stop herself being burned to death. She describes bodies being piled up and incinerated in the town square, because there was no more room in the cemeteries. Now that the conflict is 45 years into the past, former British and German airman can happily fraternize at the RAF Museum in Hendon. There are few regrets. "It seemed right at the time," says one of the Brits, "and you cannot remodel history".

In the third of his series of reports on the changing mood of the Soviet Union, Hajo Herrmann looks at groups out of step with the regime, from embittered Afghan war veterans to hippies and supporters of the Democratic Front, which is pressing for even greater glasnost. He also films a meeting of an ultra-patriotic, quasi-fascist movement called Memory, fighting what it believes to be a conspiracy against the Soviet Union by international Masonry and Zionism. In a country where one ideology prevailed for more than 70 years this is pluralism with a vengeance, exhilarating as well as unnerving.

BBC

8.30 Breakfast News and

Commonwealth Games. Steve Rider with the overnight news from

audience; national, international and

business news at 8.30, 7.00, 6.00,

5.00; regional news and weather at

5.30, 7.30 and 8.30.

9.20 Kinky. Robert Kinky chairs a

studio discussion on a topical subject

10.00 News and weather followed by

The Filmmakers Comedy Show

10.25 Children's BBC, presented by

Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays

10.50 Rockers (10.50 Five to

Eleven. Garard Green with a reading

11.00 News and weather followed by

Commonwealth Games. Helen

Rollison introduces further

coverage of last night's action in

Auckland, including housing

quarter-finals, weightlifting, cycling,

badminton and bowls, plus the

latest results from Ralph Deller

interviews News and weather

12.00 12.55 Regional news and

weather

1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip

Hayton. Weather

1.30 Neighbours. Paul is determined to

make Todd pay for his dishonesty,

while Harold and Sharon give

Mike a tough time which results in

near chaos at the school.

2.15 Knowledge: Ring of Prayer. The

whichever-bound detective follows

up the link between two deaths

and the occult. Starring Raymond

Surr (1)

3.00 Head of the Class: Love Is

Debatable. Alan is suffering from a

broken heart when the school

debating competition begins.

3.25 Bazaar. Janice Long is joined by

plant expert Stefan Buzzalet talking

about growing salad ingredients on

the window-sill. Barbara Daly has

more beauty tips and a close shave

Chessum and Jan Posner take

Danny Baker a few elementary

lessons about looking after his new

car.

3.50 Two by Two, presented by Jenny

Powell (1) 4.05 Stop! and Tidyup

narrated by Terry Wogan (1) 4.15

SuperTed 4.25 Jackanory. Lynda

Balmain with a new collection of

Coral's *Older and the Ice-Pick*

4.35 BraveStarr. Animated

science fiction adventures

5.00 Newsworld 5.05 Blue Peter. With

Avette Fleisling and John Leslie.

(Ceefax)

5.35 Neighbours (1). (Ceefax)

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter

Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather

6.30 Newsround South. This week Les

Dawson is joined by Floella

Benjamin, Michael Groth, Vince

Hill, Sue Lloyd, Gail McKenna and

Charlie Williams. (Ceefax)

7.30 Major Des. The eleventh hour

ITV

6.00 TV-am begins with News and

Good Morning Britain introduced by

Richard Keys and Lorraine Kelly. With

news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00,

8.30 and 9.00. After Nine includes

child psychiatrist, David

Peters, talking about why children

have superpowers

9.25 Lucky Ladies. Word association

game 9.55 Thames News and

weather

10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Mike

Scott chairs a topical discussion

of the current media series

presented by Judy Finnigan and

Richard Madeley. Today's edition

includes items on astrology,

gardening, fashion, teaching

young children to swim and Jan

and a guide to popular crafts.

Includes national and international

news at 10.55 and regional news

at 11.55 followed by national

weather

12.10 Playbox with Keith Chegwin and

Pat Coombs 12.30 Home and Away.

Alison causes a final spot of

havoc before leaving Summer Bay

1.00 News and weather 1.30 Gardening

Time

1.40 Flax: Where the Builders Fly (1988)

starring Tony Adams, Michael Ripper

and Dawn Addams. Comic spy

thriller in which agent Charles Vine is

assigned to prevent the secrets of a

revolutionary British fighter plane

falling into enemy hands

3.25 Thames News and weather 3.30

The Young Doctors. Australian

medical drama serial

4.00 Nellie the Elephant 4.05 The

Raggy Dolls (1) 4.15 The Real

Ghostbusters (1)

4.40 Children's World. The big day

comes for Nurse Mischief and Diane

— their interview for the ward

sister's job. Charlotte Woods

discovers Keely's secret fear.

5.10 Who's the Boss? An old college

friend and a new employer and

muscles herself too much at home.

5.40 News and weather

6.00 Home and Away (1)

6.25 Thames News and weather

7.00 The Year You Were Born (1) The

holiday programme has an

environmental theme tonight.

Judith Chalmers looks at new plans

to save Stonehenge and plans to

environmentalists about ways in

which our holidays will have to

change in order to prevent tourist

attractions being spoilt. John

Cartwright visits the Isles of Scilly,

and there is a report from Llanelli in

Cyprus. (Ceefax)

7.30 Coronation Street. Ny Brennan

and Mike Baldwin reach a

compromise both are happy with,

but will Don be pleased? (Ceefax)

BBC2

8.15 Westminster 8.30 Ceefax

8.50 Daytime on Two: computer safety

9.25 Spanish for beginners 9.40

you and your health 10.05 For

very young viewers 10.15 Music for

saxophones 10.40 Joining the

WRACs or working as an RAF

technician 11.00 The Odyssey

11.20 Business and economics

11.40 Indian musical instruments

12.00 Science for the young 12.15

The Treaty of Versailles 12.35

Leaving home 1.00 Science of the

motor car 1.20 Postman Pat

1.40 Tropical rainforests

2.00 News and weather followed by a

learning to read series

2.15 Songs of Praise from Guildford (1)

(Ceefax)

2.50 Behind the Screen with The

Comic Strip

3.00 News and weather followed by

The Yellow River. Part two in the

series about the Chinese river (1)

3.30 Man and Boy explore Exmoor

(1) 3.50 News and weather

4.00 Catchword with Paul Oo

4.30 Behind the Headlines presented

by Jeremy Paxman

5.00 Book, Stranger. A profile of

teacher Rodney Cruse (1)

5.25 Living with CF. Award-winning

film about Nicholas Woodfield who

suffered from cystic fibrosis. He

died in December 1989 at the age of

19 (1)

5.55 Commonwealth Games. Includes

live coverage of the men's marathon

10 x 10: Sounds Together. How

music and vocal techniques can be

used to help children with speech

defects

6.10 Horizon: From Earth to Miranda.

The first of two programmes about

the two NASA Voyagers 1 and 2

spacecraft which were launched in

1977 on a 12-year mission to the

planet Neptune (Ceefax)

6.00 Film: Wings (1979) starring

Jeff Bridges, John Huston, Elizabeth

Taylor and Anthony Perkins.

Political thriller about an investigation

into the assassination of an

American president. Directed by

William Richert (Ceefax)

10.30 Newsnight

11.15 The Late Show includes a

comparison of BBC, ITV and Sky

news programmes by David

Walker of The Times 11.55 Weather

12.00 Behind the Headlines. See 4.30.

Ends at 12.35am

CHANNEL 4

8.00 The Channel Four Daily

8.30 Schools

12.00 Streetside. Omnibus edition of

the consumer programme (1)

12.50 Business Daily. Up-to-the-minute

news financial news and analysis

1.00 Sesame Street

2.30 IT for the Terrified. Information

technology for the uninitiated (1).

(Ceefax)

2.30 Film: The Oracle (1952, b/w)

starring Robert Beatty, Virginia

McKenna and Gilbert Harding.

Comedy about a reporter who

discovers an oracle that is able to

predict the future accurately.

Directed by Pennington Richards

4.00 Film: All That Might Happen (1963).

London through the eyes of London

Transport. Directed by

R. K. Nelson-Baxter

4.30 Countdown

5.00 The Late Late Show. Dublin's

music and chat show presented by

Gay Byrne

6.00 American Football: Super Bowl

Highlights. Presented by Mick

Luckhurst

7.00 Channel 4 News

7.50 Comment followed by Weather.

8.00 Brookside. Sheila has a surprise

when an unexpected visitor appears

in the Close, and Geoff pays

dearly for a romantic evening (Ceefax)

8.30 Diamond's: 'Old de Front Page.

'Police activity outside Desmond's

barber shop makes for a day that

nobody will easily forget. (Ceefax)

9.00 Hello, Do You Hear Us? (see

Choice)

10.00 Is Eleventh: The Naked Child

Surgeon. The doctors decide to

perform surgery in the nude

11.00 11 Minutes: The Job. A young man

takes a visit to the hairdresser and

uses a trim and a close shave

11.05 Flying Schoolboys and The Wild

Sow (see Choice)

12.15 Sam Angola. A look at Angola —

dra Political fund for the East

- BUSINESS & FINANCE 21-24
- FOCUS ON NORTH WALES 26-30
- SECRETARIAL 31
- EDUCATION 34,35
- LAW 36
- SPORT 37-44

MONDAY JANUARY 29 1990

21

Executive Editor
David Brewerton
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND
US dollar
1.6590 (+0.0135)
W German mark
2.8045 (-0.0076)
Exchange index
88.1 (same)

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share
1851.5 (-16.5)
FT-SE 100
2314.5 (-20.5)
USM (Datastream)
155.15 (-2.15)

SE seeks to revive fund for investors

The International Stock Exchange is discussing ways of reintroducing its compensation fund because it believes the existing protection for investors under the Securities and Investments Board is inadequate.

Sources within the Stock Exchange admit it is looking at ways to bring back the fund, abolished in 1988 as part of the changes under the Financial Services Act. It would be financed by a levy on members of the Securities Association and would top up the payments from the Investor Compensation Scheme, run by the SIB. This provides compensation if a firm regulated under the FSA goes into liquidation. But it only pays claims of up to £30,000 in full, with its maximum pay-out £48,000. By contrast, the former fund had a maximum compensation of £250,000. Before Big Bang in 1986, there was no limit. Now Stock Exchange chiefs are worried the SIB's compensation levels leave investors at risk.

BAA could challenge 397p high

BAA shares could challenge their 397p high this week as the market awaits news of a possible attempt by Mr Michael Ashcroft's ADT to outflank the airport operator's golden-share bid defences. ADT, whose biggest shareholder is Laidlaw Transportation, of Canadian Pacific, has built up 8.19 per cent. Under BAA's privatization, a golden share forbids any investor from holding more than 15 per cent. But Mr Ashcroft is thought to want a change which would allow the Government simply to have the right of veto on any shareholding over 15 per cent. Sir Norman Payne, BAA chairman, would not comment yesterday. On Friday, BAA shares climbed 3p to 388p.

Containers delays deal again

Sea Containers, the shipping group run by Mr James Sherwood, has again delayed its final agreement of the \$1 billion (£602 million) sale of its Sealink ferry subsidiary and its British container business to Temple, the Anglo-Swedish consortium. However, formal agreement is expected by tomorrow. The deadline set by Temple for the end of last week for acceptance of the offer has been extended to 8 am New York time on Tuesday. Both sides, however, said there was no particular cause for delay, and Mr Sherwood and his board have recommended the transaction in principle. After formal acceptance, Mr Sherwood is expected to release another alternative recapitalization plan.

TOURIST RATES		
Australia	Bank	Bank
Switzerland	2.95	2.97
Denmark	8.05	8.06
France	6.55	6.56
Germany	16.70	16.71
Italy	16.70	16.71
Japan	11.31	11.32
Netherlands	8.05	8.06
Portugal	2.95	2.97
Spain	16.70	16.71
Sweden	8.05	8.06
Switzerland	2.95	2.97
USA	1.15	1.16
UK	1.15	1.16
Yugoslavia	1.15	1.16

Eurotunnel in reshuffle after TML criticism



"The light at the end keeps flashing SOS"

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

Eurotunnel is to announce a new management structure and make senior appointments to strengthen and co-ordinate its handling of the project contract, in response to criticism from Transmanche Link, the construction consortium building the Channel tunnel.

The changes, which are expected to be revealed in a fortnight, will clarify management responsibilities under Mr Alastair Morton and M André Bénard, the co-chairmen of the Anglo-French group.

The Bank of England, which has taken a keen interest in the project since 1986, has been kept informed

of the changes and is understood to have approved the sharper delineation of responsibilities below the level of chairman.

There will, however, be no chief executive of Eurotunnel as a whole, despite strong pressure for such an appointment from TML.

The co-chairmen will be less involved in contract management after resolution of the dispute between Eurotunnel and the construction groups which form TML over the project's burgeoning costs and the subsequent switch of emphasis to its refinancing.

Under the changes, M Alain Bertrand, the French joint managing director, will be in charge of setting up the new organization to

operate the completed tunnel system. He has hitherto had some responsibilities for contract management, including negotiations on safety matters.

Mr Graham Corbett, the finance director, will be in day-to-day charge of raising extra borrowings from the banks and new equity from shareholders.

Management of the contract with TML will also come under unified control below the level of chairman for the first time, allowing TML contractors on both sides of the Channel to deal with one individual.

Speculation that Dr Tony Ridley, the English joint managing director whose main responsibility has been

contract management, is about to leave his job, is understood to be premature, though it is not clear what his role will be in the new structure.

The changes were envisaged in this month's Eurotunnel announcement of its new agreement with TML, under which the construction consortium agreed to final cost figures nearer to Eurotunnel's estimates than its own.

At the same time, Eurotunnel agreed to make a series of changes to sharpen its management of the contract, including a 25 per cent cut in its supervisory project implementation department, which TML regarded as too bureaucratic. TML's shareholders are pressing

for the changes to be made as soon as possible. TML's management was strengthened last year.

The management changes are a key part of the fresh agreement hammered out between Eurotunnel and the TML negotiators.

After months of dispute between the two sides, the 208 banks financing the project are seeking reassurance that any residual bitterness will not delay the scheduled completion of the project or cause deviation from the new £7.2 billion budget outlined in the agreement.

The banks have yet to give formal acceptance of the new costings. However, these are being recommended by the leading banks in the consortium.

Bank facing battle over Clowes £13m

By Neil Bennett

Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank, faces a legal battle over £13 million raised from the sale of shares in Buckley's Brewery, once owned by Mr Peter Clowes and Mr Guy von Cramer, who were directors of the crashed Barlow Clowes investment group.

The shares were sold by S&F 14 months ago and it has held the proceeds ever since. The dispute could further embarrass the Government in its attempts to settle the affair.

As the Government is preparing to pay out £154 million to 15,000 Barlow Clowes investors, it will soon replace the liquidators as the companies' main creditor, and could become directly involved in any court action to recover the money from the merchant bank.

Singer & Friedlander acquired the money when it sold a 53 per cent stake in Buckley's Brewery, owned by Mr Clowes and Mr von Cramer, after their bid for the Welsh brewer in 1987.

The bank took the 8.46 million shares as security for estimated loans of £8 million which the two used in their bid. The stake was sold to Guinness for £13.2 million in 1988, leaving Singer with a profit of more than £5 million.

Since then, Singer has offered the money to the Barlow

Clowes liquidators to be paid to former investors in the gilt funds. "We want to pay it into court through a friendly action so we can get the whole thing settled," said Mr Tony Solomon, the chairman.

But the receivers have refused this, and are now preparing to challenge Singer for the whole £13.2 million they raised from the share sale. "Singer wants a full release with no claims against them," said Mr Michael Jordan, the joint liquidator from Cork Gully. "We have legal advice not to allow this."

"We are not satisfied the money was lent by Singer to buy the Buckley's shares and we do not regard the discharge of the loan as valid."

Mr Jordan refused to reveal how the liquidators would



Mr Clowes: may also claim

make their counter-claim against Singer, but said they would take action soon.

The £29.2 million bid for Buckley's was made by Brodian, an off-the-shelf company. This was financed by three separate sources. As well as the loans from Singer & Friedlander, money came from Cramer Holdings, Mr von Cramer's private company. There were also funds from bank accounts in Switzerland and the British Virgin Islands. Mr von Cramer, presently on bail on charges relating to the Barlow Clowes affair, may also be planning to claim the money. "We will strongly resist any suggestion that he has a claim," said Mr Jordan.

Mr von Cramer and Mr Clowes won their bid for the ailing brewer weeks before the stock market crash in 1987. They promised to transform Buckley's into a leisure group, including hotels and casinos.

Barlow Clowes investors should start receiving compensation cheques from the Government next week. Cork Gully is said to be due to start sending payments on February 5 to all those who filled in compensation forms correctly.

However, a large number of investors have not filled in the date on their forms so some payments will be delayed while they are sent back for completion.

Hartwell set for battle



Fighting off an unwanted £151m bid: Peter Huggins, chairman of Hartwell, at the weekend

Mr Peter Huggins, chairman of Hartwell, the Oxford motor distributor, emerged from a board meeting over the weekend at which directors considered the chances of the company has of fighting off the unwanted £151 million bid from the Saudi Jameel Group, which

reaches its first closing date on Thursday.

Mr Huggins claims that the Jameel offer, of Tempus, page 22

136p a share, "significantly undervalues" Hartwell, particularly given his company's prop-

erty assets. A revaluation of these should form the main plank of the next stage of Hartwell's defence and is likely to be published after the first closing date.

Observers believe that Jameel may be considering increasing its terms to clinch victory. Tempus, page 22

Bush 'plans large cut in US deficit'

By Our City Staff

President George Bush is expected to announce plans for a sharp cut in the US government's deficit in 1991 to \$63.1 billion (£38 billion) when his budget is presented today.

According to confidential documents leaked to the New York Times, Bush's 1991 budget proposes the deficit be reduced from the estimated \$124 billion this year by a slowdown in federal spending coupled with record tax receipts.

The document reveals the budget will propose spending of \$1,233 billion and predict tax receipts of \$1,170 billion.

The ambitious plans would bring the deficit within the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings

budget-balancing law. Last year's budget deficit was \$152 billion, \$16 billion above the Gramm-Rudman goal.

The budget is said to include defence spending of \$292 billion, a cut in real terms after inflation.

In Britain, estimates of the Budget surplus this year are being revised down further after the Chancellor's warning that the outturn would be below his previous forecast. At the weekend Warburg Securities issued a circular suggesting the surplus could be £8 billion or less.

If the outturn is about £8 billion, Mr John Major's room for manoeuvre in the Budget will be even less.

Chloride to seek purpose of stake

By Martin Waller

Mr Ray Horrocks, chairman of Chloride Group, will seek clarification this week of the intentions of Mercurius SA, a Swedish investment company which on Friday disclosed that it held 5.1 per cent of the beleaguered battery producer's equity.

Mercurius, part of Mercurius Gruppen, the Swedish industrial holding company, unveiled its stake on Friday, prompting a late 2p rise in the Chloride share price to 36p. It has interests in shipping, offshore energy, commerce and investment banking, and has been seeking to raise its profile in Britain since last summer.

The news is likely to be received with apprehension by

the Chloride board, which last year presided over a slump in profits, the forced sale of its European battery operations, and the departure of Mr Kent Price, its chief executive.

Last month, the group reported a further slide in half-year profits, from £7.7 million to £5 million, and analysts were forced to downgrade their forecasts for the year ending next March to about £16 million.

Meanwhile, Chloride is thought to be close to a decision over Altus, its 51 per cent-owned American battery business. The investment, which broke even in the six months to September, has been "under review."

Ghost of Gold Fields walks again with mine listing in London Northam sees broader horizons

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

The ghost of Gold Fields — albeit friendly, and albeit indirectly — will again walk the International Stock Exchange from Thursday when the South African mining company Northam Platinum gains a London listing.

Northam, which is developing a platinum and other precious metals mine in the Transvaal province of South Africa, is 60.4 per cent owned by Gold Fields of South Africa (GfSA) and 6.8 per cent by interests associated with South Africa's Gencor mining group. There is also a 1.5 per cent British shareholding.

Northam shares have been quoted in Johannesburg since March 1987 and were 12 per cent directly owned by Consolidated Gold Fields.

But the ConsGold-Northam link was broken when Hanson took over ConsGold last year, an event which killed off the name Gold Fields in London mining circles. Hanson later

sold off all its inherited South African assets. Mr Alan Wright, chairman of Northam, says there has been satisfactory progress on the Northam project and the time is right for the company to seek a higher international profile.

Northam also plans to raise about R600 million (£150 million) by way of a rights issue within the next six months.

So far, R483.3 million has been spent on developing Northam, and a further R818 million (in current money terms) will probably be needed.

Northam has rich grades and expects to come into production during the 1991-92 financial year. The life of the mine is conservatively estimated at 100 years, and the outlook for platinum group metals is likely to remain strong throughout the 1990s. The lease area is roughly 25 square miles within an area of 41 square miles.

The nature of Northam's ore body and the location of the mine has presented

some technical problems, with which the Gold Fields team has successfully coped. The ore-bearing horizons dip at an angle of 20, and mining is planned to a depth of 2,420 metres below surface — twice the depth of existing platinum producers.

At the working depth, the rock temperature is 65°C — not typically found on a Witwatersrand gold mine until about 4,000 metres. To cope with such temperatures, refrigeration facilities which can produce the equivalent of 19,000 tons of ice a day are to be constructed.

Once in full production, electricity demands for the mine will be 1,370 megawatts per hour a day and it will require 18 million litres of water. The total staff complement should be 7,000.

As befitting a member of the blue-blooded Gold Fields family, Northam Platinum is being sponsored for its London listing by Cazenove.

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Mayor of Los Angeles trumps tallest tower plan

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

Plans by Brent Walker, the leisure group, to link with Mr Donald Trump, the flamboyant American property casino and airline tycoon, and construct the world's tallest building in Los Angeles, have hit trouble.

The \$1 billion (£603 million) project designed for the 24-acre site of the former luxury Ambassador Hotel — where Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968 — has been criticised by Tom Bradley, the mayor of Los Angeles, as a bad idea, inappropriate and not in keeping with the surrounding area.

Brent Walker, AMEC, the construction group, Power Corporation, the Irish devel-

oper, and S D Malkin Properties, the New York property developer, bought the Ambassador last summer for an estimated \$63 million.

Mr Trump, who names everything he owns after himself, bought a 20 per cent stake in the consortium for \$12 million and immediately renamed it Trump Wilshire Associates with himself as the managing partner.

He is aged 43 and started as a flat owner in a suburb of New York. Since then he has earned a reputation for building tall, glitzy establishments.

His most famous is the Trump Tower, on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, whose centrepiece is an 80 foot

waterfall splashing down pink marble walls of an atrium.

When Mr Trump learned last week that Chicago had sanctioned a 125-storey building which surpasses the Sears Tower as the world's tallest, he immediately upped the height of the Los Angeles development by 300 feet.

The local council wants to build a school on the site and Mr Bradley has said that developers who are building in prosperous parts of the city should also consider improving some of its poorer areas.

Mr Trump says he can always pull out if the Los Angeles establishment tries to force anything on him. He claims the consortium has

already had one offer — believed to be from Japanese investors — of \$155 million.

The 510-room Ambassador which occupies a third of the development site was built in 1910 for \$5 million and became the playground of the 1920s and 30s Hollywood set.

Its famous Coconut Grove nightclub played host to US presidents, European royalty and Rudolph Valentino, Douglas Fairbanks and John Barrymore, the actors.

Marilyn Monroe, the actress, attended modelling classes at the hotel, and a woman once rode a horse through its lobby to amuse her lover, Mr William Randolph Hearst, the publisher.

Dominion may face setback of £40m

By Martin Waller

Dominion International Group, the financial conglomerate which called in the administrators more than a week ago, could have a shortfall in assets of up to £40 million.

Mr Carl Openshaw, the chairman, refused to confirm this figure yesterday but said it represented the "consensus view" of those close to the company. "Only the banks will know exactly what their exposure is," he said.

He was speaking as the administrators, Mr Michael Gerke and Mr Mark Homan of Price Waterhouse, embarked on the business of assessing the financial situation at Dominion, where Mr Max Lewinson, who built the company up over the past 15 years, was ousted in August as deputy chairman.

Dominion has bank debts of more than £100 million. Mr Openshaw has already said shareholders are unlikely to receive any payment. The shares were suspended at 52p in September, when the company had a market capitalization of about £35 million.

Mr Openshaw said write-offs of £35 million had been made over the past five years, in addition to £11 million announced the day administrators were appointed.

"The business has had to write off nearly £50 million, and clearly that has depleted resources and assets," he said.

The chairman has moved to allay fears that large numbers of potential purchasers at the company's Costa del Sol holiday development will be hit by Dominion's collapse. Most owned their properties outright, and "less than half a dozen" had put down deposits but had not yet completed.

"I'm sure that these developments will continue to exist and I'm sure it's in everyone's interest to see that they are protected," he added.

Major's opportunity to green the tax system

John Major's task in his first Budget is not an easy one. Like other chancellors before him he will want to stamp his own personality on the Government's main economic statement from the start, and this year in particular, with the small screen for the first time broadcasting the parliamentary occasion live, he needs to produce an effective speech.

Yet unlike most other chancellors he does not arrive at the Despatch Box with the benefit of a fresh mandate from the electorate, nor is the economic outlook anything but difficult. Since his remark in the House of Commons last week about a lower Budget surplus, the City scribbles have been busy cutting their estimates of this year's result even lower, in some cases to £8 billion or less. His scope for dramatic initiatives costing large sums of money is extremely limited.

That need not make his Budget uninteresting. To begin with, he has inherited a far-reaching reform of family taxation which meets many of the criticisms levelled at the system over the years. In terms of its social impact, independent taxation of husband and wife may be the most significant legacy of the Lawson years. The fact that the details are already known need not prevent Mr Major from claiming maximum credit for the Government.

He should also claim some economic credit. Independent taxation will help to increase the supply of labour at a time of growing shortage. Psychologically, independent treatment by the tax system should encourage more women to take paid work while removing the financial disincentive which makes it uneconomical to elect for independence unless combined incomes are more than about £30,000, with the woman contributing at least £7,000.

Even the revenue cost of the reform may be relatively benign economically. Much of the estimated £500 million cost in the first year will arise from couples reorganizing their affairs to maximize the use of their allowances against investment income.

either in July or September. But the Chancellor might want to indicate his general approach in the Budget.

Using the tax system to promote neighbourliness is a sound general principle which Mr Lawson applied very successfully in the case of unleaded petrol. Using the price mechanism is likely to achieve a more efficient trade-off between the costs and benefits of reducing pollution, and therefore a lower average level of pollution, and lower administrative costs, than any feasible system of direct controls. Inevitably, direct controls would have to be set at or near the pace of the slowest to avoid driving large numbers of companies out of business.

New pollution taxes could only be considered in the context of EC-wide agreement, and preferably with a wider consensus than that. To go it alone would raise a storm of protest from industry, which would feel it was being handicapped in competition with producers overseas. In the case of pollution, such as carbon emissions producing global warming, British industry would pay while others shared the benefit.

Few objections, however, would be raised about tax cuts for good behaviour. In the absence of international agreement, the free rider problem would remain, but the cost of compliance would be borne by taxpayers as a whole and would therefore be inconspicuous. Where the effects of pollution were localized taxpayers would welcome an initiative while industry could hardly object.

It may be, as the Institute for Fiscal Studies has concluded, that taxes or tax reliefs would have to be very substantial to have an effect. London Economics in a paper for ICI has calculated that to reduce nitrate concentrations in the soil by 5 per cent would require a tax of about 40 per cent on nitrogenous fertilizers. A paper by Scott Barrett of the London Business School suggests that a tax of about 24 per cent would be required on coal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from this source by a quarter, even stretching the process over 10 years.

But it is not clear that these calculations take full account of the psychological effect of a tax differential for polluters. Backed by an appropriate campaign quite a small tax change could have a significant effect. It would certainly do the Government's political standing no harm.

Whether a start can be made on greening the tax system in the coming Budget depends on the chosen balance between stick and carrot — tax increases and tax cuts — and any scope which can be achieved by changes elsewhere in the system. It may, in any case, be desirable to legislate tax changes a year before they are introduced.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Skills shortages on the retreat

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Alcan Ekco Packaging, which manufactures aluminium foil food containers at Chesham, Buckinghamshire, has been increasing its workforce by a half since it recently faced competition from other companies in search of scarce skilled and other labour.

But there are signs of the tight labour market easing — "although not yet to a large extent" — according to Mr Nick Kendal, the managing director. His experience is being echoed — most strongly in the services sector — around the country and especially in the Thames Valley.

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) found in the skills survey for the final quarter of last year that there was a "significant" drop in the businesses hit by skills shortages. There has been sufficient change to raise hopes that there will be reduced pressure for pay rises to spiral.

Service sector businesses having recruitment difficulties

dropped to 53 per cent from 62 per cent. Manufacturing was down to 60 per cent from 66 per cent. The biggest falls have been among clerical staff (only 19 per cent affected by shortages against 32 per cent) while finding unskilled and semi-skilled workers was a problem for 9 per cent of companies against 19 per cent.

In the Thames Valley 33 per cent of businesses said they were still hit by clerical staff shortages against 75 per cent.

At Alcan Ekco, a joint venture between British Alcan and the Packaging Corporation of America, Mr Kendal said the main easing seems to have come from people looking for a change of job because their present company was running out of growth.

In the North West recruitment problems are mounting, with 76 per cent of service industry companies reporting difficulties and 67 per cent of manufacturing businesses (up from 72 per cent).



Finding it easier to recruit staff: Nick Kendal of Alcan Ekco

Reporting this week

Blue Arrow on target for fall to £65m

By Matthew Bond

TODAY

Blue Arrow, the employment group from which Mr Tony Berry was ejected as chairman, will today reveal more of the damage suffered from the controversy surrounding the group last year when it unveiled figures for the year to end-October.

Analysts expect further write-offs totalling £5 million after the £42.8 million written off at the half-way stage. The latest write-offs will come mainly because of decreased fees to lawyers, accountants and merchant bankers as a result of the Blue Arrow affair.

For the full year, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, is expecting pre-tax profits to slip from £75.1 million to about £65 million.

Today's figures from Kelt Energy, the oil group, should get the week off to a lively start. Kelt, suffering from indignation after its £208 million takeover of Carless last year, has been out of favour. The market is braced for losses, accompanied perhaps

by a debt restructuring. Having changed its year-end to April, today's interims from John Menzies, the newsagent, will be its first figures for the interim period to October.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley are looking for £4 million — in line with the £2 million Menzies reported for the first three months of the year.

Much more importantly, however, they will be looking to Mr John Menzies, the chairman, for a statement about the future of its Early Learning stores.

Interim Barnato Exploration, Brandon Hire, Fort Sailer Morris Properties, Haynes Publishing Group, Kelt Energy, Menzies (John), TR Trustees Corp, Tooth (R/W), Fossil, Blue Arrow, Bullough, Dewey Warren, Jacques Vert, Tade, Yelverton.

TOMORROW

Interim AIM Group, Applied Holographics, Bristol Channel Ship Repairers, Davies (OY), Dudley Jenkins Group, Ransom (William) and sons, Shelton (Martin) Group, UPL Group.

Partridge Fine Arts, Thromorton Trust.

WEDNESDAY

Interims from WH Smith, the high street stationer, should dominate today.

Conventional wisdom is that retailers like Smiths that sell a large number of low-priced items should be able to ride out the retail recession.

However, that rather too conveniently overlooks the problems the group must



Sir Simon reports midweek

surely be having at its DIY stores and travel agencies.

Analysts are looking for interim pre-tax profits in the £35 million to £40 million range, slightly down on last year, although there could be problems in comparing this time's 26-week period with last year's 27 weeks.

Sir Simon Horaby, the chairman, could also have some interesting things to say about the far from recession-proof book market, after last year's purchase of Waterstones.

Among the companies reporting final results is USM-quoted Moorfield Estates. Moorfield's mix of residential and commercial development is about as out of fashion as you can get at the moment.

But the company has one advantage — most of its business is done in the north of England. There, house prices do not cost enough to require people to club together to buy them, so the joint mortgage relief deadline of Mr Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor, passed the region by, as did the subsequent slump. Panmure Gordon, the

company's broker, is going for £1.8 million, against £1.3 million last time.

There are interims from Platinium, the pen and household goods company and penny stock. The six months to September is the first period covered by the new management. A £4.9 million full-time loss and the subsequent discovery that the company did not have the money to pay its dividend has prepared the market for the worst. Close followers believe the worst may be over.

Interim — Gray Electronics, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co, Optical and Medical International, Platinium, Prisma Insurance Corporation, Sanderson Murray Elder (Holdings), WH Smith, Southwell Resources, Finsale — Allied Textile, Central Motor Auctions, Colverville Moorfield Estates, RCO Holdings, Tilley International.

THURSDAY

Interim Aerospace Engineering, Prisma Insurance, Sanderson Murray Elder (Holdings), French (Thomas) and Sons.

FRIDAY

Interim Wholesale Filings, Finsale, Birmingham International, Kisan-Holdings.

Inglis puts back into Dunbar

Following in the footsteps of Paul Nield, who resigned as chief economist at UBS Phillips & Drew about a year ago, claiming that he was in need of extensive physiotherapy on his back, equity strategist Ken Inglis, head of macro research at the firm, has been complaining of a similar affliction in recent weeks — and now he too has resigned. Nield has since resurfaced as the economics correspondent of Channel 4 news. And Inglis, an affable and popular figure, previously investment manager with Scottish Provident, the insurance company, is returning to the world of fund management — and doing so right at the top of the tree. For he is, with effect from April 1, becoming the director of investments at Allied Dunbar, a post hitherto held by the legendary Hugh Jenkins, now with the Pru. At Allied Dunbar he will be responsible for 60 or so fund managers and £7 billion of funds. "He will be head of their investment department and they are one of our major clients," says Hector Santa, head of equities at UBS P&D. "It is an excellent and prestigious appointment and we are very pleased for him. It was not entirely unexpected. He had been working for us on a part-time basis since October and we have been strengthening our strategy group in anticipation that something like this might happen." Mark Brown will now be responsible for UK strategy and Guy Riden

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Divine guidance at BP

British Petroleum's new strategy of exploring more in virgin territory than in known oil basins could have been brought about because of a new, and hitherto secret, method it has for divining the presence of crude oil reservoirs underground. As part of BP's continuing three-tier reorganization, the London head office of BP Exploration is

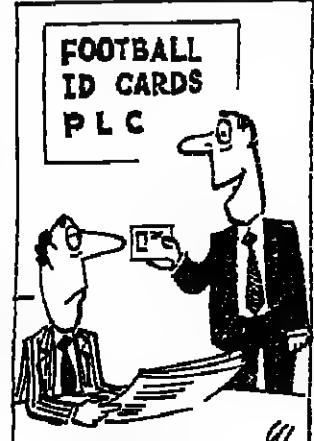
expected to move into premises long used by the British & Foreign Bible Society in Queen Victoria Street. It would thus become the only leading international oil explorer with its own chapel in the basement. Official sources refused to confirm that it will soon be mandatory for all top BP executives there to begin the day by praying for oil.

is the European strategist with overall responsibility for the team. As for Santa's own back, he assures me, with a wry smile, "it is very robust."

Spoilsports

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation has branded staff members at SG Warburg spoilsports after their point-blank refusal to join its broomball team in a practice match on the ice rink at Broadgate this afternoon, ahead of a City mini-tournament there on February 1, in aid of Children in the Cities, a new charity under the umbrella of the Save the Children Fund. "We asked them to play a warm-up game with us, since we've never played before, but they refused," says one Hongkong & Shanghai insider. "We're now playing Laing & Cruickshank, which is entering a team under the Credit Lyonnais name, instead. At

least the French are willing to have some fun." Despite their inexperience, the practice match, due to start at 4pm, promises to be hard fought — the Hongkong & Shanghai side includes two members of its in-house rugby team.



"Let's try IQ cards."

Vestey and groom

Edmund Vestey, cousin of Lord Vestey and chairman of his family's business empire, Western United Investment Company — the holding company which owns Dewhurst, the butchers chain — is likely to be spending considerably more time with his groom. For, as Video Magic Leisure, which owns 100 video rental shops in Britain, unveiled its joint (forgive the pun) venture with JH Dewhurst to open a further 22 outlets, it came to light that Edmund, despite his vast wealth, does not yet own a VCR. "Whenever he wants to watch a group training video, his groom shows it to him on his machine," a source close to the company said. Meanwhile, Brian Ketchell, the managing director of Video Magic — who started the business in 1982 with a £1,000 loan from his father-in-law — let slip that, on the face of it, his own domestic set-up might indicate that this choice of business partner was equally unlikely. Both his wife, Nova, and daughter, Simone, aged 13, are strict vegetarians. ● The SIB's consultative paper on the investors' compensation scheme has left the City puzzled. Detailing its proposed method for the collection of contributions, it reads: "The amount to be levied from each participant TSA member firm is the amount which bears the same relationship to the total levy to be made as is borne by the factor determined for the firm under the next sub paragraph to the aggregate of these factors."

Carol Leonard

Safeguards call over new reports

By Our Industrial Editor

Short and simple versions of company annual reports and accounts, which are likely to be introduced soon after a change in the law, should include some safety net provisions for small shareholders, says the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

The employers' organization, while agreeing that a summary of accounts would be adequate for many shareholders, want them to be told well in advance by companies so that if they require it, they can have the full version instead.

The CBI wants pre-paid reply cards to be sent to shareholders before summary statements go out and before the final accounts are ready. Then the full report and accounts should reach shareholders in good time for them to be studied before a company's annual meeting.

Additionally auditors ought to give an opinion on whether summaries of accounts are consistent with the full reports, adds the CBI.

Abbreviated reports will save some companies, particularly those recently privatized, millions of pounds in postage costs to send full versions of their annual figures.

Summarized versions will become legal following changes to the Companies Act. The new regulation is expected to be in force by early April.

Boost to invisibles trade expected

By Colin Narborough, Economics Correspondent

The Government's projection of Britain's trade in invisibles in the final quarter of last year looks set for a sharp upward revision by the time of the Budget.

This revision, arising from a better public sector invisibles performance, is likely to be in the region of £1 billion. This would not only narrow the 1989 current account deficit to below the £20 billion which Mr John Major, the Chancellor, forecast in his Autumn Statement, but would also give a pre-Budget boost to the Government's finances.

Mr Richard Mason, executive director of the British Invisible Exports Council, said the invisible figures, revealed in Friday's current account data and showing a surplus of only £100 million a month for the latest three months, were a "bit odd".

The Treasury said the low £204 million invisibles surplus in the third quarter was due to a delay in big payments to the Government by the

European Community. Mr Mason said this money should show up in the Central Statistical Office's assessment of the invisibles balance due to be published in March. The invisibles figures cover trade in areas such as financial services, tourism, shipping and official transfers.

The BIEC has been alarmed by the erosion of overseas earnings caused by Britain's high interest rates, which have boosted net interest payments abroad by British banks.

Mr Mason said that despite this handicap, the private sector invisible surplus is still expected to turn out at £9.5 billion for 1989. Although well below the £12.2 billion surplus of the previous year, it "demonstrates that the private sector's overseas earnings are far from collapsing."

Many analysts feel invisible statistics have failed to keep up with fast-moving services markets and deregulation and provide only a rough guide to the true position.

Investors to settle dispute at Norfolk

By Martin Waller

Shareholders in Norfolk Capital Group, the hotels company, are meeting today to vote on the attempt by Mr Peter Tyrie to gain a seat on the board at the expense of Mr Peter Eyles, the existing managing director.

But last week's £167 million hostile offer from Queens Moat Houses has largely superseded the squabble between Mr Tyrie's Balmoral International hotels group and the existing management at Norfolk.

The bid is conditional on Balmoral's proposals being voted down.

Indications are that the majority of shareholders at the meeting will back Mr Eyles, despite support for Mr Tyrie from, among others, Lady (Eileen) Joseph, widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, the founder of Grand Metropolitan, and holder of 7 per cent of Norfolk.

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Anglian Water	Water	10.00
2	Delta	Industrials A-D	10.00
3	British Gas (ns)	Oil/Gas	10.00
4	Unigate (ns)	Food	10.00
5	Castle Cement	Cement	10.00
6	TI (ns)	Industrials S-Z	10.00
7	Peritrol	Industrials L-R	10.00
8	Neper-BNA	Industrials L-R	10.00
9	Electrocomponents	Electronics	10.00
10	Westpac	Bank/Discount	10.00
11	Contin	Building Roads	10.00
12	ES	Industrials E-K	10.00
13	TSS (ns)	Bank/Discount	10.00
14	Newman Tanka	Building Roads	10.00
15	Wet	Industrials S-Z	10.00
16	Triplex Lloyd	Industrials S-Z	10.00
17	Anglia TV 'A'	Leisure	10.00
18	Colony	Building Roads	10.00
19	Photo-Me	Industrials L-R	10.00
20	Domino	Electronics	10.00
21	Ros	Electronics	10.00
22	Barr (AG)	Food	10.00
23	P-E International	Electronics	10.00
24	Wagon Ind	Industrials S-Z	10.00
25	Terra Petrol	Building Roads	10.00
26	Ransomes	Industrials L-R	10.00
27	Cycle Pat	Oil/Gas	10.00
28	Morland	Food	10.00
29	Tesco (ns)	Food	10.00
30	Conair	Industrials A-D	10.00
31	Nichols (NS) (Visto)	Food	10.00
32	Macro 4	Electronics	10.00
33	Courtside (ns)	Textiles	10.00
34	Crysalite	Electronics	10.00
35	Kleinwort Benson	Bank/Discount	10.00
36	South West	Water	10.00
37	Aras Energy	Oil/Gas	10.00
38	Chamory	Bank/Discount	10.00
39	Hopkings	Industrials E-K	10.00
40	Hepworth	Industrials E-K	10.00
41	Yorkshire Water	Water	10.00
42	Silam (J)	Industrials A-D	10.00
43	Seam GP	Electronics	10.00
44	Debenhams Tescos	Property	10.00
Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			10.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

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Capitalization and change over week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end February 9. Contango day February 12. Settlement day February 19.
Sforward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
Anglian Water	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delta	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
British Gas (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unigate (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Castle Cement	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TI (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Peritrol	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Neper-BNA	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electrocomponents	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Westpac	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contin	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ES	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TSS (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Newman Tanka	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wet	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Triplex Lloyd	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Anglia TV 'A'	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colony	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Photo-Me	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Domino	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ros	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Barr (AG)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-E International	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wagon Ind	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terra Petrol	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ransomes	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cycle Pat	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Morland	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tesco (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conair	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nichols (NS) (Visto)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Macro 4	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Courtside (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Crysalite	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kleinwort Benson	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South West	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aras Energy	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chamory	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hopkings	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hepworth	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yorkshire Water	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Silam (J)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seam GP	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debenhams Tescos	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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Anglian Water	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delta	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
British Gas (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unigate (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Castle Cement	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TI (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Peritrol	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Neper-BNA	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electrocomponents	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Westpac	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contin	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ES	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TSS (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Newman Tanka	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wet	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Triplex Lloyd	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Anglia TV 'A'	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colony	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Photo-Me	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Domino	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ros	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Barr (AG)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-E International	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wagon Ind	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terra Petrol	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ransomes	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cycle Pat	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Morland	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tesco (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conair	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nichols (NS) (Visto)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Macro 4	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Courtside (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Crysalite	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kleinwort Benson	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South West	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aras Energy	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chamory	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hopkings	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hepworth	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yorkshire Water	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Silam (J)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Castle Cement	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TI (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Peritrol	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Neper-BNA	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electrocomponents	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Westpac	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contin	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ES	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TSS (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Newman Tanka	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wet	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Triplex Lloyd	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Anglia TV 'A'	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colony	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Photo-Me	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Domino	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ros	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Barr (AG)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-E International	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wagon Ind	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terra Petrol	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ransomes	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cycle Pat	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Morland	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tesco (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conair	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nichols (NS) (Visto)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Macro 4	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Courtside (ns)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Crysalite	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kleinwort Benson	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South West	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aras Energy	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chamory	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hopkings	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hepworth	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yorkshire Water	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Silam (J)	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seam GP	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debenhams Tescos	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

788.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
742.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
148.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
148.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
68.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
531.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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On the highway to prosperity

The A55, being improved at a cost of £550 million, is being called the corridor of opportunity. David Walker tells of hopes that it will bring in investment and boost business

Trade used to follow the flag, but now it follows the JCB. "Corridor of opportunity" is what Peter Walker, the Welsh Secretary, has christened the A55, now being improved to dual carriageway standard along its 60 miles from Chester running parallel with the north coast of Wales as far as Bangor.

The road, marked on those grand maps they draw in Brussels offices as a leg of the E22 Euroroute from Dublin to Sassari on the Baltic Coast, has already become a big attraction for the public agencies setting out their stall to bring in investment.

Possibly an even more important long-term aspect of the improvements is the boost they have given the area's self-confidence — the aim is to cut the Chester-Bangor journey time from three hours to one. The economy planners hope this will lead to an expansion of home-grown small and medium-sized business.

The road is part of their economic aspiration that this part of Wales may be constructing the right kind of balance of industry and services, distribution and retailing that will finally kill off folk memories of over-dependence on single sources of employment — slate-quarrying in the high hills or steel-making on Deeside.

The improvement of the route, a long project stretching across Mrs Thatcher's years in power, will inevitably come to be looked on as a Conservative legacy.

Yet its politics are far from straightforward. Talk to Plaid Cymru activists and you can hear "conservative" arguments against the road that would not be out of place at the highest of Tory high tables. They are about policies that undermine community traditions; they say the road will bring people, property transactions and policies that will further threaten the old Welsh-speaking districts of the county of Gwynedd.

And to a strict Thatcherite, the road also presents some difficulties of principle.

The Government admits that the £550 million-plus being spent on

the A55 and related roadworks, equal to £2,217 per household in the North Wales region, barely meet the rigorous cost-benefit criteria that are now supposed to be applied to all public sector investments.

Committing such large sums to the route was an act of regional faith. Meanwhile, the project's overt association with subsidized factory and office space being



Liberal: Edwards (left) and Walker provided through such bodies as the Welsh Development Agency smacks of a different political approach from that favoured by Mrs Thatcher or her trade and industry ministers.

Yet this is Wales, where under the former Welsh Secretary, Nicholas Edwards, and now Walker, a rather more liberal approach to state funding and public enterprise has persisted.

The road has not been "planned" in the sense that in some Cardiff Civil Service office there is a blueprint for the matching of new communications links and land for new enterprise. Too many overlapping and sometimes competing public authorities are involved for that to have been possible, even if the Welsh Office had wanted it.

The road must none the less count as a monument to a more haphazard, but not inconsiderable, attempt to marry the input of public money — and public powers, for example, over land acquisition — with private enterprise, large and small.

In December, Dr Gwyn Jones, the Welsh Development Agency chairman, announced a new strategy for the agency in North Wales to make the best use of the new road. It presented, he said, an

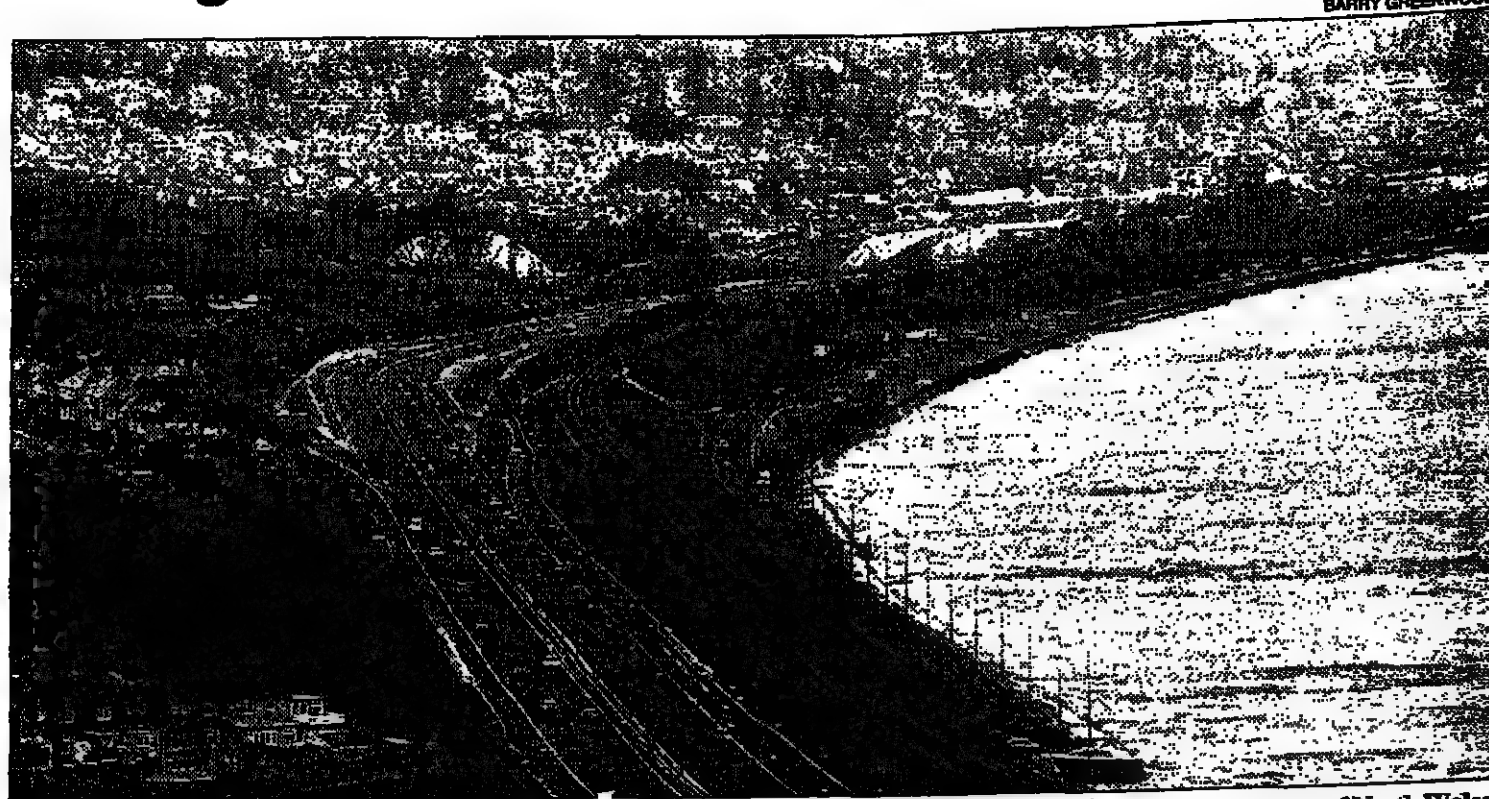
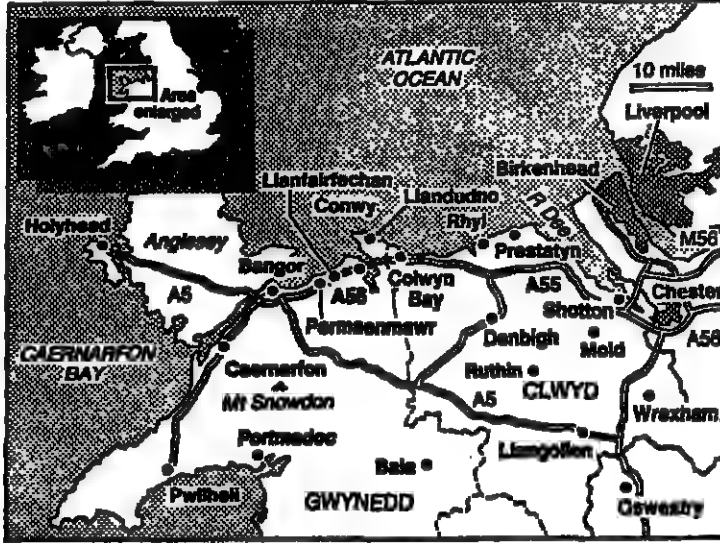
"opportunity to build a regional economy which will be among the most vigorous in Britain". On the agency's arithmetic, its 1990-91 investment of £25 million of public money will encourage £100 million of private sector spending, possibly leading to 3,000 new jobs.

"We are striking a careful balance between economic growth and environmental improvement and between the fostering of new and established local business and the attraction of new industries," he said.

The agency's new focus on North Wales involves the identification of "growth points" — for example, business parks alongside the road, and urban regeneration in such older towns as Caernarfon, Bangor, Queensferry, Wrexham, Flint and Conwy.

It has drawn up a programme for the reclamation of land previously used for industry or mining and is considering 90 sites totalling 1,900 acres.

The public sector activism that has been permitted in Wales, and to some extent Scotland too, while being discouraged in England, embraces the Land Authority for Wales, a holdover from the 1970s with its new role of putting together packages of land and property for development.



Taking its course beside the coast at Colwyn Bay the A55 hugs the shoreline and provides a quick link to other seaside resorts of North Wales

New thinking, and new hopes

The A55 upgrading has been on the stocks for years. In this time it has been less a corridor of opportunity than a link between bottlenecks. The road's incapacity to carry dense seasonal traffic and large lorries became

part of North Wales lore (writes David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent). The first major of the route was ordered by the Welsh Office in 1965.

Many expenditure rounds and several public inquiries later, the programme began with a proposal for a 3,300ft tunnel under the Conwy to replace the 1950s road bridge. Costain-Tarmac should complete it in 1991.

The improvements have coincided with what some people consider the belated discovery of the region and its problems by policy-makers in Cardiff and London. The running-down of quarrying in the mountains was part of the rural decline but joblessness and economic decrepitude in North Wales were dramatized by the sudden loss of industry around Cwtyd.

The Shotton steel closure and the manufacturing recession in Wrexham forced a reorientation on the mainly South Wales-based development agencies. Since 1979 the Welsh Development Agency has provided 2,000,000 sq ft of

factory space in Cwtyd and 35,000 sq ft in Gwynedd.

Local expectations are strong. There is talk of "another M4" — referring to the benefits which that motorway brought to South Wales. Ioan Bowen Rees, chief executive of Gwynedd County Council, has said he hopes the A55 will do for his territory what the M56 did for Chester and Deeside.

Economic developers on Deeside and at Wrexham think on a big scale. In Wrexham new passenger services from Manchester airport are probably a more significant transport development than the A55. Yet the A55 is one of the attractions being dangled in front of potential investors and developers, fitting in with the emphasis today's planners place on tourism and services. The region therefore has a claim on the siting of distributive centres, and developers for the first time have considered building large shopping centres depending on custom from a wide area. The A55 improvements, paid for

by the Welsh Office, will undoubtedly bring further prosperity into Cheshire and make Chester even more attractive for retailing and distribution. The road is said to be opening up even the fastnesses of Gwynedd, such as Pwllheli, to long-distance or part-week commuters, with controversial effects on property values and linguistic balance.

For the time being, all the improvements have done is reduce six or seven medium bottlenecks to two giant bottlenecks. But soon the route to Bangor will be open. Journey times are already significantly down. So is unemployment. In mid-1987 unemployment in Gwynedd and Cwtyd was nearly 12 per cent. Last October it was 6.7 per cent.

Since 1983 the area has secured 122 investment projects worth £711 million. Much of that money is from Japan. Toyota, for example, is to build a £140 million engine plant at Shotton.

The signs that small and medium-sized business is being stimulated is just as significant.

RATE OF GROWTH IN NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED

WALES 45%
U.K. 19%

*Source: Jordans

BUSINESS SURVIVAL RATE

WALES 35%
U.K. 19%

(Source: Regional Trends)

PERCENTAGE OF WORKFORCE SELF EMPLOYED

WALES 13%
G.B. 11%

June 1988
Source: Employment Gazette

INDEX OF MANUFACTURING OUTPUT

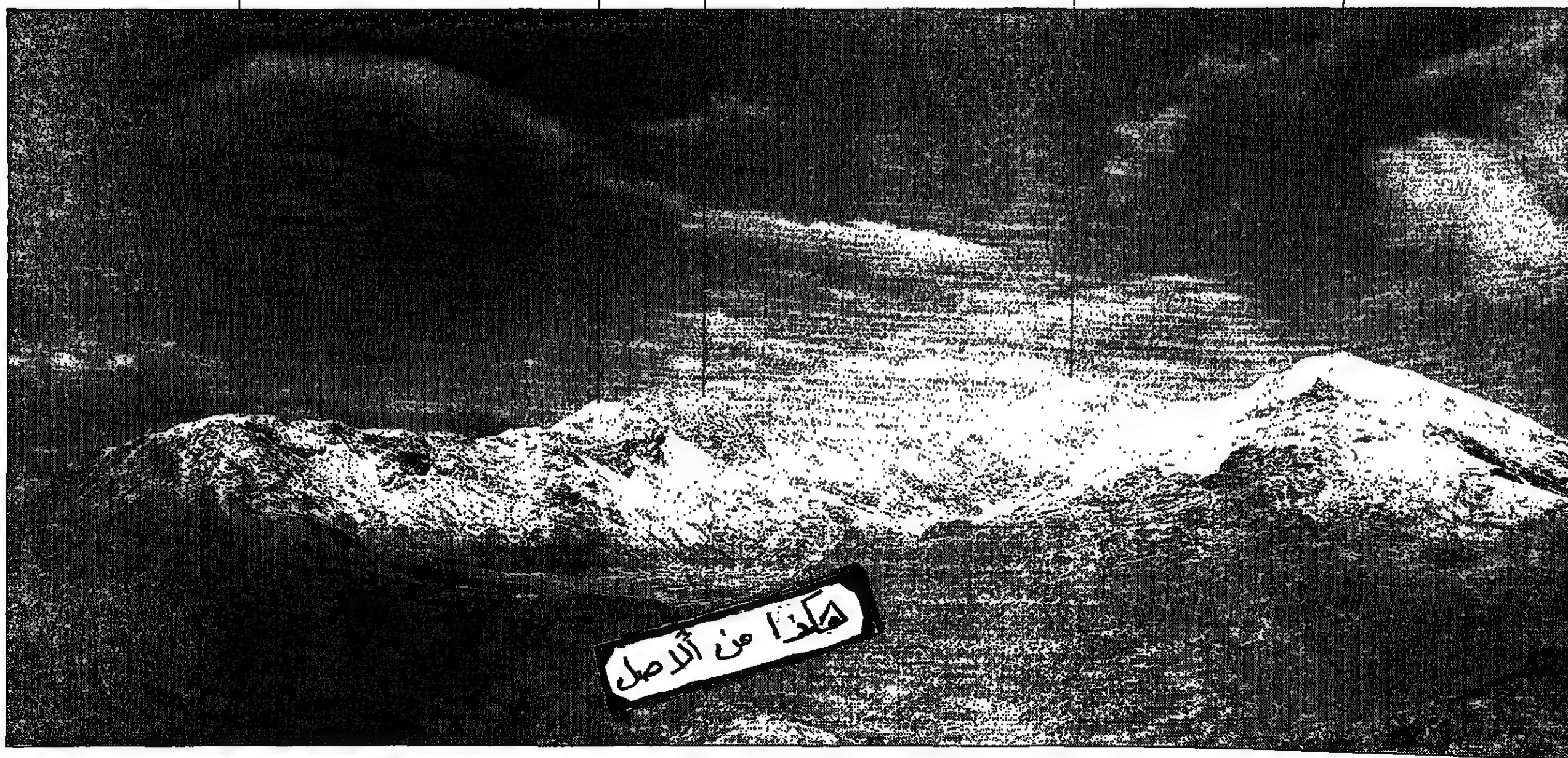
WALES 135.6
U.K. 116.3

3rd Quarter 1988 (1985 = 100)
Source: Welsh Office

GROWTH IN NET MANUFACTURING OUTPUT PER EMPLOYEE

WALES 36%
U.K. 29%

1983-88
Source: Business Monitor PM1002



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WDA

WE MEAN BUSINESS IN WALES

How they blew the big hole through the hill

At Penmaenbach, the Snowdonia mountain range tips spectacularly into Conwy Bay, putting a slab of ancient and very hard rock in the way of coastal communications. Improving the route is a job for drills and dynamite. So it was in the 1930s that the A55 was first tunnelled through the range. More recently, upgrading the road to dual-carriageway standard required Balfour Beatty and its engineering associates to blast a parallel tunnel.

Penmaenbach Tunnel, opened last year by Peter Walker, the Welsh Secretary, is a 2,100ft route through solid rock. It produced more than 22,000 tons of spoil, much of which was re-used in building the road.

Punching a hole through the headland and building retaining walls and a new pedestrian path around the coast were one thing. Avoiding destruction of the Chester-Holyhead railway alongside was another. Train timetables were such that the blasting was restricted to a 20-minute gap at 8pm — and after every shot the line was inspected for damage.

Penmaenbach is only one of several engineering triumphs

One stretch of the A55 presented a special challenge. In the end the solution had to be dynamite

among the A55 improvements, but it illustrates a perennial problem for the engineers and construction crews. Communications are severely congested, road and rail links continually interweaving, forcing the construction of yet more bridge works. The problem confronted the Welsh Office's consulting engineers, Travers Morgan, in presenting options for the grandest project — a new bypass for Conwy.

A new bridge, to add to Thomas Telford's original road bridge, Robert Stephenson's 1849 rail bridge and the 1950s road bridge across the River Conwy, had been considered but its impact on perspectives of the historic town and its castle were ultimately considered too great, and the more expensive tunnel project was approved.

Another bridge, the Welsh Office said in 1980, would have had "an unacceptable

impact on Conwy Castle and the town's walls, which have been preserved in so complete a form as to make them a monument of rare and exceptional value".

With the help of Christiani & Nielsen, Travers Morgan identified three options. Costain-Tarmac agreed to build a £102 million tube tunnel in the bed of the river, taking the road from the Colwyn Bay bypass over the Blaenau Ffestiniog railway on to mudflats, then under the existing coast road and rail routes through the tunnel, curving west to emerge at Conwy Morfa.

The Conwy crossing tunnel, due to be completed in 1991, will be about 3,300ft long. Apart from the tunnel, which accounts for nearly half the value of the contract, the project includes 13 bridges and a host of embankments.

Sand and soil from digging the tunnel trench have been

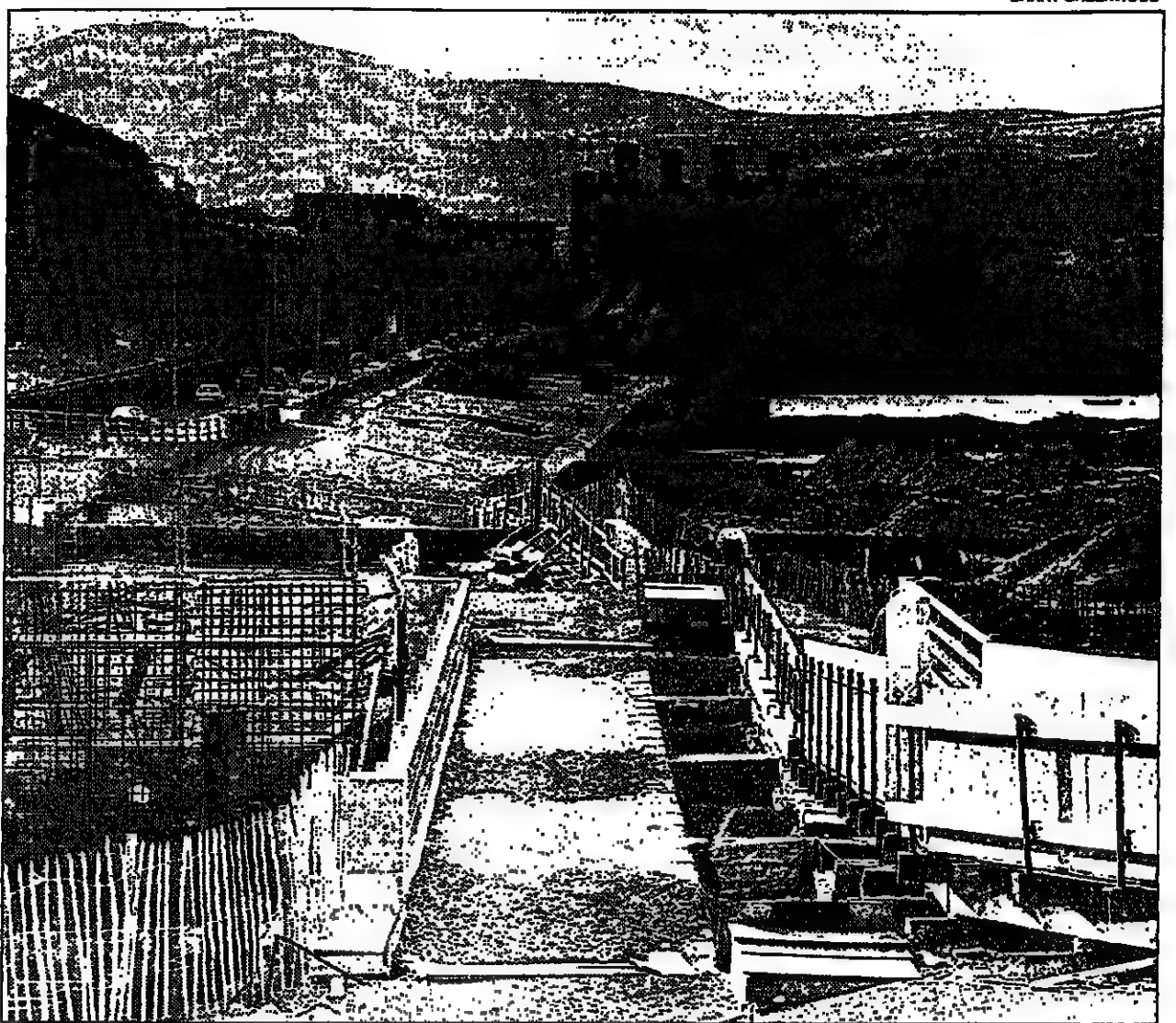
used to reclaim land elsewhere in the Conwy estuary and to shore up three huge holes in the river itself to be used to cast the tunnel sections.

The plan is that the six "vessels", each 34ft x 88ft x 380ft and weighing 33,000 tons, will be floated out of the basin one by one. The pumps holding the Conwy back will be turned off, the casting basin flooded, the earthen walls breached and the vessels floated out to be sunk into the previously dredged trench. Once in the trench, the sections will be joined and sand pumped under the tunnel as a permanent foundation.

The tunnel, already a splendid spectacle, is a great engineering achievement — but not the only one.

From the Hawarden bypass in the east, along the Holywell bypass, the Bodelwyddan improvement and the Colwyn Bay bypass to the Pen-y-Clip tunnel, on which construction starts soon, and what is effectively a new coast at Penmaenmawr, improving the A55 has involved not a few feats of technology, ingenuity and muscle.

David Walker



On the road to the tunnel: the castle at Conwy and the charm of the old town had to be protected, so the A55 went underground

Faster route to holiday resorts

Tourism is one of the first industries to benefit from the new road. Already, all records have been broken

The new A55, though not yet finished, has already transformed tourism in North Wales by bringing the resorts of Prestatyn, Rhyl, Colwyn Bay and Llandudno within 90 minutes of Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

More day trippers than ever are pouring along the new highway to the seaside and mountains. The improved communications, as well as the long hot summer, helped to break all records in 1989. Tourism chiefs are confident that more records will be broken in the 1990s and that North Wales will consolidate its market share.

The impact extends as far as Pwllheli — far further than the

A55 reaches. Better road access was an important factor in Butlin's recent decision to spend £21 million in a new development at Pwllheli bringing 50 full-time and hundreds of seasonal jobs.

In the next few years £160 million is being spent on action programmes in North Wales, many of them tourist-related, to benefit Rhyl, Conwy, Llangollen, and towns and villages communities in Gwynedd. This spending is expected to create 1,900 jobs, 900 of them attributable to Wales Tourist Board-supported projects.

Already 36,000 jobs in North Wales are in tourism. The industry is producing income of nearly £500 million annually — five-sixths of the cost of creating the 60-mile dual carriageway A55 between Chester and Bangor.

In this decade the planners' most important challenge will be catering for the visions in ways that encourage them to return and which boost local economies without damaging the beauty of the surroundings and the richness of the Welsh culture. The debate goes on, particularly in Gwynedd, where there has been oppo-

sition to marina schemes. Lew Evans, the Wales Tourist Board's North Wales manager, believes that to exploit the opportunities the watchwords must be co-ordination and quality. By co-ordination he means co-operation in marketing the area as a whole, instead of parochially, and he wants to see accommodation and attractions bearing the hallmark of class.

A £1 million initiative has been developed involving the tourist board, the Welsh Development Agency, local authorities and the industry itself to co-ordinate marketing in the next five years. "We are seeking new markets further north and south of the traditional areas of the north-west and the Midlands for our holidaymakers," Evans says. The Scots are one target.

Literature in several European languages is being planned. Efforts are also being made to attract more holidaymakers from North America, now that the eastern end of the A55 is within a comfortable 45 minutes' car ride of Manchester international airport.

"People are today far more selective about standards,"

Evans says. "That is why we are striving to ensure that accommodation — and food in particular — and our attractions are the best."

Holiday-makers now visit the resorts from March to Christmas, with the advent of three-day and four-day breaks. "People are taking more but shorter holidays and this has helped to extend the season right into the winter, far longer than has ever been known before," Evans says.

Chris Jackson, the North Wales Tourism Council chairman, says this has been the biggest change in the modern holiday pattern. As a director of the Welsh Mountain Zoo at Colwyn Bay, an all-year round attraction, he has first-hand knowledge of holiday trends. "It's happening because hotels and camping operators are having the foresight to invest, and there lies the key to the future," he believes. "Attracting crowds in August, where sometimes saturation point is reached, is not all-important. What is vital is offering a year-round, quality attraction."

The best news on tourism the Isle of Anglesey has received for many years is that the A5 is to be made a dual carriageway, linking Holyhead with the A55 near Bangor.

Variety is one of the most appealing aspects of North Wales for the holidaymaker — the sandy beaches of resorts such as Rhyl and Llandudno, the secluded bays of Anglesey and the Lleyn Peninsula, the grandeur of Snowdonia, the history and beauty of its castles, and the tranquillity of lakes and forests.

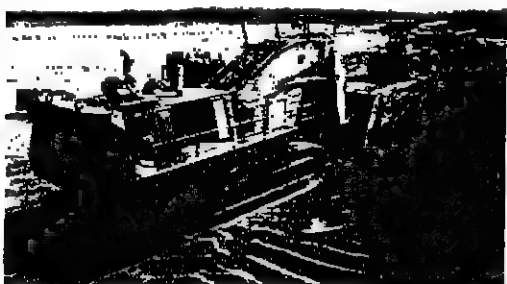
Holiday-makers can even ride in a miniature train into a mountain where the slate industry of generations ago is re-enacted at Blaenau Ffestiniog. They can see a giant hydro-electric scheme at Llanberis, an engineering triumph that has produced a greener Britain. There is Portmeirion, the Italian-style village that is a lasting memorial to the eccentric genius of the architect Clough Williams Ellis.

Wyn Roberts, the Minister for Wales, says: "Local authorities told me the first consequence of the new A55 will be its impact on subsidiary roads. Many motorists will depart at various points to visit the rural areas, and that it will not be merely the coastal strip that benefits."

"The tourist industry is gearing itself up for boom times."

Derek Bellis

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Enjoying the best of both worlds



Old and new: tourists gather round a town crier at the cross in the medieval Rows, quaint two-tiered galleried shopping malls

Chester emerged 2,000 years ago as a fortress against the marauding Welsh tribes. Now it "surrounds" each Saturday to Welsh shoppers, and must have taken over the title, once held by Liverpool, of "unofficial capital of north Wales".

As a gateway to both England and Wales, it is strategically placed to prosper in industry, commerce and tourism. A fast-developing and attractive 135-acre business park will provide at least 4,000 jobs, and the 84-acre Chester West employment park envisages another 2,000.

Many big companies have already arrived. Marks & Spencer Financial Services has its headquarters on the business park and Shell Chemicals has relocated from the south of England. BIOC plans a purpose-built unit there.

At Chester West, there is a new regional distribution de-

The gateway to both England and Wales, Chester is strategically placed to prosper in industry, commerce and tourism, Derek Bellis reports

pot for Boots, the British headquarters factory and offices for NEBS, an American company, and other offices and factories.

With work now progressing on a link road to connect the A55 southern by-pass with the M56, Chester's access to the national motorway network will be superb. Manchester International Airport is only 45 minutes away, as are the north Wales resorts.

Development area status is another advantage in attracting industry and commerce.

Chester has all the leading chain stores and the medieval Rows, two-tier galleried malls, lend a charm that few cities can equal.

The city likes to put itself in

the same tourism class as Stratford-upon-Avon and York. The River Dee runs through the city, and the amphitheatre is claimed to be the largest unearthed in Britain. It is famed, too, for the oldest established horse races in the country, a fine cathedral and the Eastgate clock - thought to be the most photographed in Britain, after Big Ben.

"We attract about 1.5 million day-trippers a year," says Gerald Tatum, the tourism development officer. "A lot are from overseas - up to 13 per cent from America and 11 per cent from the Continent." A third of all holidaymakers are from overseas.

Tourism is worth £40 mil-

lion a year to Chester. It has 5,500 bed spaces, ranging from a five-star hotel to guest houses and self-catering accommodation. "There is something to attract every pocket," Tatum says. "More and more people are using it as a base to tour North Wales and the north-west of England."

Carol Jones, the city council's assistant economic development officer, is convinced that Chester's main attraction is the quality of life and environment. "Companies which have relocated here from the south of England say their staff are able to familiarize themselves with the area very quickly," she says.

"A number of companies have told us that their staff would not wish to move back. Here, they enjoy a pleasant standard of living, cheaper housing and access to city, countryside and coastline."

"The city seems to be booming and in the next two years there are going to be a lot of exciting developments."

Along with Corby and Consett, the name of Shotton came to stand for the sudden and devastating effects of the shrinkage and reorganization of the British steel industry (David Walker writes).

But assisted, like them, by a bank of investment incentives and development schemes, Shotton has shown a remarkable capacity to rebuild its economic base and to display a sense of industrial optimism, which a hard-nosed realist might have said was little justified by the objective facts of markets and location.

Shotton needs a little explanation. The original British Steel plant was near the small town of that name, located where the River Dee begins emptying into its broad, sandy estuary between the Wirral peninsula and the coast of Clwyd.

Shotton is one of several industrial communities, including Conah's Quay, Manot and Queensberry, which falls under the administrative umbrella of the Alyn and Deeside District Council (which has

Nerves of steel pay dividends

offices in Hawarden, where William Gladstone used to fell trees on his family estate).

Shotton's recovery owes much to some of the agencies in Wales, notably the Welsh Development Agency, and to district and county local authorities which did not lose their nerve in a testing period. If there is still a rather frenetic style to their industrial promotion activities, it is explained by the fact that during the 1980s, after the steel closure, they had to act fast.

And not just steel. Clwyd's industrial belt lost out heavily in the recession of the 1980s. While Pilkington, a big local employer with plants at St Asaph, Bodelwyddan and in the new Deeside industrial park, has kept faith, other long-time employers moved

out, or ceased manufacturing and mining altogether.

At the heart of the local authority's recovery plan has been the conversion of the Shotton site to Deeside industrial park. A second big development entitled Deeside Waterfront - although marsh-front might be more strictly accurate - is on the stocks.

In terms of travel to work and retail catchments, Deeside spans the English-Welsh border, so the prosperity of Chester city and the county of Chester are inevitably part of the Deeside equation.

The success of the Deeside industrial park is summed up by council officials with the decision last year of Toyota to build a £140 million engine plant on a 120-acre site there. The Japanese company (6,000 people are employed by for-

eign-owned companies in the county of Clwyd) plans to produce larger capacity engines, mainly to feed Toyota's passenger-car construction plant to be built at Burnaston in Derbyshire, which is two hours' away by road.

If doubters were not convinced by that, the expansion of the Shotton Paper Company's Deeside plant - bringing its Shotton investment to more than £250 million - was last autumn's clincher. Nearly 450 people are now employed in paper-making on the site of an older British Steel mill.

For Alyn and Deeside District, generating jobs was the "absolute priority" when unemployment was nearly 20 per cent. Now the council can afford to be a little more choosy about the employment opportunities that present themselves. It is a question of filling out the Deeside industrial park - 1,000 acres given over mainly to manufacturing concerns - by trying to encourage activities with a high-tech component that might fit with the technology centre sited in the middle of the park.

Wrexham's economic development team tends to baffle at the suggestion that its efforts to promote the Clwyd industrial centre are linked to some recent realization that local authorities have a task to play in attracting investment.

The Labour-controlled council first adopted an economic plan for the district in the early 1970s. The reputation of a former chief executive, Gordon McCartney, gained as a specialist in the economic development role of municipalities helped catapult him to national prominence when he became secretary of the England and Wales-wide Association of District Councils.

The fruits of the local authority's efforts - in collaboration with the Welsh Development Agency and other public-sector bodies - are best seen in the district's association with the Japanese electronics manufacturers Sharp and Brother Industries, both of which are now well settled in north-east Wales.

Great satisfaction was felt locally when last year the Henley Centre for Forecasting identified Wrexham as one of six areas in the United Kingdom with most economic potential for the 1990s.

As well as a bundle of grants associated with its development-area status and abundant factory accommodation, a selling point in the promotional material pub-

Pioneer spirit that showed the way forward



Robert Dutton: prime position

County Council's economic development officer. "Executives can hop on a plane."

In the economic development business, however, "knocking publicity" is considered bad form; both county and district and WDA spokespeople emphasize the warmth of their links with another and the absence of damaging competition among areas for investment.

Together, Griffin says, the municipalities produced an integrated operations plan for submission to the Commission of the European Community.

The plan in Clwyd includes building on Wrexham's existing investments in pharmaceuticals by developing a site adjacent to Wrexham hos-

pital; part of the Wrexham technology park is to be dedicated to medical processing and health care.

A commerce-minded division of the county college's Institute of Health Studies - called "med tech" - has been set up to draw the private sector into developing links between the medical profession, industry and research.

But none of that is to the exclusion of manufacturing - paper, chemicals, motors, electronics, office equipment, plastic moulding - or more traditional production processes such as brewing and baking confectionery.

An emphasis made by Robert Dutton, chief executive of Wrexham Macleod District Council, is on its central position, a possibly contentious claim he backs up by citing the growth of links across the Irish Sea through Dublin to Holyhead, and Wrexham's situation as a "midway point".

Discussion about opening a Holiday Inn hotel in the town lends weight to that, perhaps also to Wrexham's position on the border between England and Wales and the vantage it gives on a hinterland that includes the cultural centre of Llangollen - where the Welsh Office recently committed £2 million to pay for a new pavilion for the International Eisteddfod - and the North Wales coastal resorts.

David Walker

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Fears for Welsh culture

BARRY GREENWOOD

Many think English-speakers will
arrive to threaten the native
tongue, David Walker writes

Some councillors do not see the upgraded A55 as an unalloyed benefit for the area, says Elwyn Davies, the chief executive of Dwyfor District Council. Their misgivings have as much to do with congestion in the Llyn Peninsula during summer months as with the wider implications of opening out an intensely Welsh part of Wales.

The road will make it possible for newcomers to set up home in the valleys or on the coasts of Gwynedd and commute to Manchester or Birmingham. Such newcomers inevitably speak English rather than Welsh and add to an "atmosphere of crisis to do with the language".

The road may also mean increased property prices in Welsh Wales, making it more difficult for the children of people already living there to find a home locally.

The Welsh Nationalist Par-

ty, Plaid Cymru, accepts that the road will be completed and says the party should fight for policies to prevent it from acting as a solvent of the Welsh community.

Plaid Cymru's strength on the local authorities of Gwynedd, most of which are officially non-political and do not operate on party political lines, belies the general sympathy it commands among otherwise independent Welsh-speaking councillors.

Dafydd Williams, the party's general secretary, says: "We need a firmer national plan for Wales, one that is on an all-Wales level. The A55 cuts across local boundaries."

"Transport improvements are much needed, of course, but there should be firmer planning controls which ensure that development is designed to favour local people buying a home of their home, not the building of extravagant developments, so-called executive housing."

"We should concentrate on the right infrastructure and planning policies. Take housing. If district councils and housing authorities were set free, and also given enhanced finance, they could do a lot now to improve housing in their own communities."

"Yet where such councils have sought to introduce policies which would help local people to get houses they have been labelled 'extravagant' by the Welsh Office."

"In recent years, the task of district councils in providing housing has been made almost impossible. The voluntary housing associations, however worthwhile, are not in any way adequate to face up to the problems of rural Wales."

"The housing schemes being mentioned now are almost always linked to housing developments of the wrong sort in the wrong place."

"Take the plans for marinas at various points on the North Wales coast. You almost always find the developers using the harbour or marina as the



Conciliator: Ioan Bowen Rees, with Caernarfon Castle as a backdrop, believes Gwynedd can be opened up with no harm done

sugar, but what will make the money for them is executive housing beyond the reach of local people, and that will smash what is left of the Welsh language and way of life in those communities."

Plaid Cymru has its own transport plan, which emphas-

izes the overall objective of improving the links between Wales and the European Community.

Williams speaks warmly of a "Euroroute" through Wales to the Republic of Ireland. He envisages such a road running from Holyhead, using the A5, then linking with the M5 further south, giving a substantial north-south road of a kind not known since the Roman occupation.

"I am sceptical about the A55 serving such a purpose," he says. "When you look at

the scale of congestion on the M6 motorway I wonder whether the A55 will serve in that context."

Williams emphasizes that Plaid Cymru is not Luddite in its objections to new roads, "but it would be wrong of us to ignore the negative effects as well as possible positive effects."

He adds: "Remember, too, that there are negative economic and social effects of new road building. I am disturbed that it is only now that there is talk of 'dualing' the stretch of the A5 through to Holyhead. It could be like the M4 motorway, which brings traffic into Wales then stops dead. The result of this has been that all distributive centres move eastwards to the English border."

Williams's views do not go unchallenged. Ioan Bowen Rees, chief executive of Gwynedd County Council, plays down opposition to the new road. To him there is no essential conflict between opening up the county and preserving the spirit of

Welshness. Indeed, he says, Gwynedd is promoting a tourist project which it hopes will bridge the gap - the Glynllifon Estate on the A499 between Caernarfon and Pwllheli, a nature and cultural centre showing visitors the richness of Welsh flora and, "Traditionally, immigration of non-Welsh-speakers into the district has been of retired people. But older people do not pose a cultural threat in the way younger incomers do. Older people tend to return to their original homes if, say, one of the partners in a married couple dies."

"Young people may at some stage stand for the local authority. I could count on the fingers of one hand the number of non-Welsh speakers who have stood while I have been in office. How long will that take to change?"

"At present, English-speakers are interested in local government but reluctant to come in."

Davies's colleague, D.L. Jones, the chief executive of Arfon District Council, observes that one of the causes of the decline in the use of the Welsh language has been that younger people have had to move out of the district in search of employment. If the road helps local industry and commerce to thrive, the Welsh language could benefit correspondingly.

'There could be a crisis for the language'

'Tourism plan could bridge that gap'

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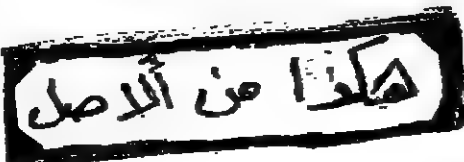
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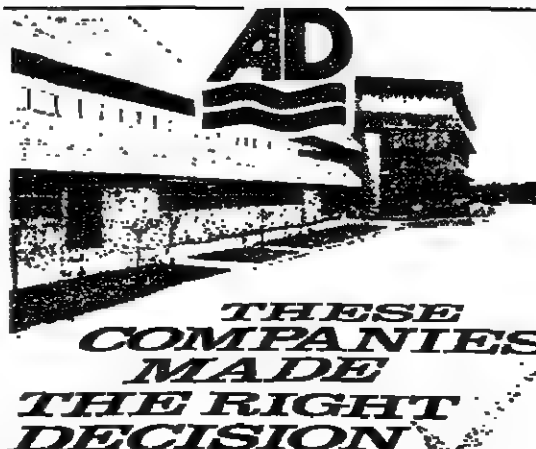
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Irism plan to bridge cost gap

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

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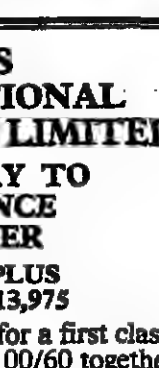
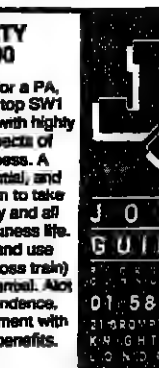
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The end of the A level?

A city technology college has devised a sixth-form syllabus that is nothing short of radical. Douglas Broom reports

When ministers spelled out the aims of the City Technology College programme, the Government was not on the list. Yet that was precisely the result of the announcement that the first of the new colleges would abandon A levels in favour of a sixth-form curriculum as radical as any yet proposed by the most progressive of educationalists.

Parents in the West Midlands will receive a glossy "mail shot" early next month offering their children a place on the pioneering "Post-16 Programme" which starts at Kingshurst CTC, Solihull, in September.

The principal, Valerie Bragg, has rejected the conventional academic approach in favour of a mixture of vocational courses and the International Baccalaureate (IB), accepted throughout Europe for university entrance.

Her decision to ignore A levels has proved embarrassing to ministers, who have spent the last three years fighting the education system's attempts to reform A levels in the name of upholding standards.

Bragg says that all "post-16 students" — she dislikes the term "sixth-formers" — will follow a course of study designed to equip them with "core skills", including mathematics and a foreign language.

When she told the Department of Education and Science about her plans, officials were astounded. She was told flatly: "You cannot do that."

However, a matter of weeks later, the DES announced plans for "core skills" to become part of all A level courses.

Opened in 1988, the Kingshurst college was the first of what will eventually be a chain of 20 CTCs across the country offering technology-based education to pupils between the ages of 11 and 18.

Two others are now open, at Nottingham and Middlesbrough, and each college is free to develop its own style of curriculum under the auspices of a national CTC curriculum development project funded by the Government.

Nottingham has already decided to retain A levels and admitted its first 35 sixth-formers as part of its first intake last September.

Kingshurst was financed by a consortium headed by Hanson Trust and including Lucas Industries. It was to these sponsors that Bragg turned in order to discover what it is that industry really want from older school leavers.

"Industrialists kept emphasizing numeracy, communication skills and business understanding," she says. "That was why we decided to build in the core skill elements."

She insists she is not looking for traditional sixth-formers to fill the 150 places on offer when the college takes its first 16-year-old students in September.

"I do not want to take anyone who would otherwise have stayed at their existing school and taken three A levels," she says. "Those are not the kind of people we were put here to serve. In this area, 83 per cent of young people leave school at 16. A level is for the top 20 per cent and it is very narrow, requiring the choice of two or three subjects."

Under her scheme, all students will be enrolled to take the college's own "Kingshurst Graduate Diploma" comprising eight core "skills" — mathematics, communications, science, a foreign language, understanding the workplace, understanding the society, information technology and work experience.

The elements have been designed to cover the ground required for basic levels of both the IB and the qualifications offered by the Business and Technician Education Council (Btec).

Those with little or no qualifications at 16 will be steered towards the Btec First Certificate, while those with three or more GCSEs at grade C or above will work for the Btec National.

Both courses offer practical studies directed to the world of work. Units of study or "modules" cover subjects such as business and finance, travel and tourism and food technology.

The most able pupils will study for the IB, which broad-



Blow for tradition: Caleb Tillott of Whitesmore, and (inset) Valerie Bragg of Kingshurst CTC

ens the traditional A level route to six areas of academic study including English, a foreign language (including, at Kingshurst, Japanese), science, maths and humanities. The programme also covers creative arts, sport and computing.

"Any state comprehensive could follow our lead if they wanted to," Bragg says. "We have been motivated by the need to produce a credible post-16 programme which built on what students had already done at GCSE. There is no connection between GCSE and the National Curriculum on the one hand and A level on the other."

"We also want our programme to prepare students for the world they will find at work where these artificial subject distinctions do not exist."

Shedding the traditional A level approach will also, she hopes, end the academic hierarchy which put A level students "on another and higher plain". She adds: "I am looking to foster

parity of esteem, which is why everyone will do the Kingshurst Diploma. We also intend to teach people both types of Btec and the IB together for some sessions."

Bragg is adamant that being a CTC has given Kingshurst no special advantage. "We have spent no more on this than any other new school starting up from scratch," she says. But her claim to have done something that any other school might emulate cuts no ice with the headmasters of the two schools closest to Kingshurst.

Simon Digby School in the middle of Chelmsley Wood, a huge estate of post-war Birmingham overspill housing, had about 500 pupils when the CTC was announced. Today, with 420 on the roll, it is in the process of closing.

Richard Metcalfe, the headmaster who tried to opt out of an unsuccessful attempt to avert its closure, said that though pupil numbers were low, the

CTC had dealt the final blow.

Of Bragg's plans, he says: "It is a brave decision. I think the IB does match GCSE much better than A level. I envy her her freedom to experiment." Caleb Tillott, headmaster of Whitesmore, a 650-pupil comprehensive at the other end of the estate, is less charitable.

"The CTC selects on the basis of the motivation displayed by pupils and their parents," he says. "If you admit only those who are motivated, you will have got rid of most of your educational and discipline problems from the start."

"I must say that when I first heard about this idea of the International Baccalaureate, my first reaction was that it was a gimmick."

Gimmick or not, the Kingshurst CTC is about to do what the Government has sought to dissuade any other state school from doing — and set about the demolition of the A level system as we know it.

ADVICE FROM AN EX-HEADMASTER

Put teachers before the curriculum

As a headmaster, I devised a rule-of-thumb measure for deciding whether I liked what was happening — or not happening — in my school. I asked myself whether I would be happy to see the same policy pursued in a school one of my own children was attending.

I am sure this is not the approach to educational decision-making recommended by any of those expensive management courses I was often invited to attend, or to send my staff on. I know it was not the view of my former colleagues, who introduced mixed-ability teaching, abandoned competition and abolished school uniforms — then sent their own children to independent schools whose practices were the precise opposite of their own.

It has advantages over the more cumbersome, consultative and bureaucratic approach favoured by the efficient "educrat", not the least in that it enables the head whose conscience has not been completely cal-

lified by career considerations to live with himself. If customer satisfaction is any gauge of success, it also seems to work. The school which had to endure my idiosyncrasies for 13 years was healthily oversubscribed for the entire time — as it had been during the tenure of my distinguished predecessor — while many of those around it were struggling to survive.

These recollections are prompted by a recent conversation I had with some primary school teachers who have a problem of conscience. With 20 or 30 years' teaching experience and grown-up families of their own, these women are being told by their head teachers and inspectors that they must abandon methods that worked for both their pupils and their own children.

Instead of teaching, they are expected to preside over a process of educational osmosis and spend hours recording the results. There is far more on the classroom walls than there used to be — and far less in their pupils' heads. The essential systematically acquired knowledge they need for understanding the National Curriculum is denied them — and their teachers are made reluctant accomplices to this short-changing process. Anxious parents

convey their sense of disappointment to the teachers, who are then forced to choose between apparent disloyalty to the head or trying to justify policies in which they do not themselves believe.

The obvious solution — pointing the parents in the direction of the head — seldom works because that kind of head is usually either unapproachable or glibly reassuring. And the parents know it.

This is not the only reason for the current chronic shortage of primary school teachers, but it does not help to retain the loyalty of many of the most experienced and dedicated, who are leaving in great numbers, devalued and disenchanted.

I had another rule of thumb. So long as members of my staff produced good results with their classes — whether measured in academic terms or general development and conduct — I did not bother myself too much with the details of their technique or approach. What works with some teachers will not necessarily work with all. The key consideration is not the method of input but the quality of output. I was thus able to co-exist quite cheerfully with teachers to whom I was ideologically opposed — and sometimes even personally antipathetic — provided I could recognize and respect their professional integrity and commitment.

Perhaps this detachment is less easy to achieve in the more intimate milieu of the smaller primary school — but I should not have thought it impossible. Most teachers, whether in primary or secondary schools, are content to be judged by results. They do not expect to be given a completely free hand to teach what and how they like. But they resent the almost daily intrusions of heads who apparently want to oversee and dictate every detail of their performance.

The irony is that these are usually the very heads who profess a preference for democratic decision-making. Many of them have acquired their expertise at management courses.

They would do better to cultivate a conscience and rely on their instincts.

Lawrence Norcross

● The author is the former head of an inner London comprehensive school.

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Continued on page 36

Judgment debt rate appropriate for interest on solicitors' breach of duty damages

Pinnock v Wilkins & Sons
Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Nicholls
[Judgment January 23]

The judgment debt rate was appropriate for awarding interest on damages for breach of duty by a plaintiff's solicitors.

The Court of Appeal so held (Lord Justice Ralph Gibson dissenting) in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendant solicitors, Wilkins & Sons, of Aylesbury, against an award of £79,807 by Mr Justice Sheen for breach of duty owed by the defendants to the plaintiff, Mr Ian Henry Pinnock, of Kings Head Passage, Temple Street, Aylesbury.

Mr Ian Hughes for the defendant, Mr Richard Gibbs, QC and Mr Richard Woodhouse for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that the main contentions of the defendants were that the judge awarded too much in respect of future loss of earnings and "disadvantage on the labour market" and awarded interest at a rate which was too high.

The plaintiff's claim arose out of a traffic accident in September 1978 in which the plaintiff was injured. He was nearly 19 at the time of the accident and nearly 29 on the hearing of the appeal. The accident was solely the fault of a motor-cyclist, Mr Ancombe.

The plaintiff instructed the defendants to advise and act for him in his claim for damages. The defendants issued a writ in 1979. The claim was made and

negotiations were conducted with the insurers of Mr Ancombe. The defendants hoped to settle the claim but failed to serve the writ in due time and the plaintiff lost his right of action against Mr Ancombe.

After the action was started and medical reports were obtained in 1980 and 1982, there was no contact between the plaintiff and the defendants until 1985. The defendants wrote letters to the plaintiff in 1983 and 1984, mentioning that the claim was statute-barred, but he did not receive them.

In January 1985 the plaintiff went to see the defendants and was then advised to go to other solicitors which he did.

His present solicitors, whom he instructed in January 1985, promptly informed the defendants. Thereafter the claim proceeded but with no great speed. A writ was served in December 1985. The defendants admitted liability.

In 1987 the plaintiff by his solicitors asked for an interim payment of £10,000, which the defendants paid. The trial commenced on January 23, 1989.

The parties exchanged schedules in which their contentions were set out as to the various items of claim advanced for the plaintiff. It was agreed that if the defendants had not failed to serve the writ and had carried forward the plaintiff's claim with due diligence, the action would have been listed for trial on March 1, 1983.

The first part of the schedule listed the items which made up

the value of the plaintiff's claim against Mr Ancombe. The second part listed "losses attributable to loss of original claim".

As to the first part, the total amount fixed by the judge was £45,123. In so far as interest was included in that sum, for the purpose of assessing the amount of a probable total award in March 1983, it was calculated at the rates appropriate to a personal injury claim, namely the Short Term Investments Account ("STIA"), (now Special Account) rate in accordance with *Jefford v Gee* (1970) 2 QB 130 and 2 per cent on the damages for pain and suffering as laid down in *Birkett v Hayes* (1982) 1 WLR 816 and *Wright v British Railways Board* (1983) 2 AC 773.

The items in the second part of the schedule were, so far as the appeal was concerned, £420, the amount of legal aid contributions thrown away in the first proceedings; a claim to interest on the £420; and the claim to interest on the total sum listed in part one of the schedule: £45,000.

It was upon that matter of interest that arguments had been addressed to their Lordships which raised points of difficulty and general importance. Before the judge, it was submitted for the plaintiff that interest should be awarded at "the rate appropriate to a judgment". At the date of trial that rate was 15 per cent. For the plaintiff, it was argued that the Special Account rate was appropriate: about 12 per cent.

There was no relevant difference in principle for the present purpose between a plaintiff's claim to recover the appropriate damages from a

tortfeasor who had injured him and a plaintiff waiting to recover damages from a solicitor who negligently caused that cause of action against the tortfeasor to be lost.

The judgment rate by contrast stood fixed and unvaried over longer periods of time. It had been fixed as appropriate to be paid upon a sum which had been determined by the court to be payable.

The reference to the judgment rate in Order 13, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court was not of any real force for that purpose.

STIA or Special Account rates had been varied at intervals of at least once a year. Taking the average of those rates over the relevant period of time seemed, in the absence of any factor justifying a higher rate, to be an estimate of what the plaintiff should be treated as having lost then the judgment rate.

For his part, therefore, his Lordship would allow the appeal to the extent only of substituting interest on the £45,000, and upon the £420 in respect of legal aid contributions, at the average over the period of the STIA or Special Account rates in place of the judgment rate awarded by the judge.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS said that an award of interest up to the date of judgment, and the rate of interest, were matters which lay in the discretion of the trial judge, under section 3 of the Judgments Act 1981, as inserted by section 15 of the

Administration of Justice Act 1982.

In *Jefford v Gee*, the Court of Appeal rejected the bank rate because it fluctuated too much, and found a better guide in the rate of interest payable on money in court placed on STIA.

Since then, the position regarding the rate of interest payable on judgment debts had changed substantially. The Administration of Justice Act 1970 contained in section 44 a power for the Lord Chancellor to amend the rate of interest specified in section 17 of the Judgments Act 1838.

That power was exercised in 1971, and subsequently had been exercised on average about once every three years. The latest occasion was 1985, when the rate was raised from 12 per cent to 15 per cent, the current figure.

Since *Jefford v Gee* there had been a further development. Section 35A envisaged that rules of court might be made regarding the power of the court to award interest on debts and damages.

Section 35A(3) provided that such rules might provide for a rate of interest by reference to the rate specified in section 17 of the 1838 Act at that section had effect from time to time, or by reference to a rate for which any other enactment provided.

In 1982 that rule-making power was exercised in relation to default judgments for liquidated demands under Order 13, rule 1(1). Under Order 13, rule 1(1) enabled a plaintiff to enter final judgment, against a defendant who failed

to give notice of intention to defend, for a sum not exceeding that claimed by the writ in respect of a liquidated demand, and costs.

Order 13, rule 1(2) provided that, for that purpose, a claim should not be prevented from being treated as a claim for a liquidated demand "by reason only that part of the claim is for interest under section 35A of the [1981] Act at a rate which is not higher than that payable on judgment debts at the date of the writ."

The effect of that was that a default judgment might be entered in respect of a liquidated demand plus interest, at the rate payable on judgment debts when the writ was issued, for the period from the date when the cause of action arose up to the date of judgment.

The total amount for which judgment was so entered would then carry interest until payment in the usual way, at the rate of interest payable on judgment debts on the date when judgment was entered.

Now that the rules of court provided for the recovery of judgment interest in some default cases by reference to Judgments Act rates of interest as a matter of course, it was, in his Lordship's view, abundantly clear that there was nothing exceptional in the court using those rates in the exercise of its discretion.

There was much force in the view that today, when a court was considering what was an appropriate rate of interest under section 35A for a period from the accrual of the cause of

action up to the date of judgment, a convenient starting point would often be the rate payable on judgment debts from time to time over that period.

To fix one rate for the whole period might work unjustly to one party or the other, given the wide fluctuations in interest rates which occurred today and given also that the period from the date on which the cause of action arose until the date of judgment might be long.

The use of a fluctuating rate would not give rise to difficulty in practice. Everyone used calculators, the Judgments Act rate did not change with unacceptable frequency, and there were published tables readily available.

Whatever rate a judge might choose as a convenient starting point, he would consider all the circumstances of the case when making his decision.

The appropriate rate in the present case was, as the judge decided, the rate which over the relevant period was payable from time to time on judgment debts.

On the other grounds of appeal, his Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Ralph Gibson. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE FOX agreed with Lord Justice Nicholls regarding the rate of interest and with his concurrence in the judgment of Lord Justice Ralph Gibson on the other matters.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Balser Mills, Rickmansworth.

European Law Report

Union representatives to be given time off for carrying out their duties

Maurissen and Another v Court of Auditors of the European Communities
(Joined Cases C193/87 and C194/87)

Before C. D. Due, President, and Judges Sir Gordon Slynn, C. N. Kakouris, F. A. Schockweiler, M. Zuleeg, T. Koopmans, J. C. Motinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias and F. Grévisse.
Advocate General M. Daron (Opinion November 30, 1989)
[Judgment January 18]

Community institutions and bodies had to enable trade union and professional organizations to fulfil their role of informing staff, representing them before the institutions and taking part in negotiation with those institutions on all questions concerning the staff.

In a broadcast dated February 26, 1987, relating to the intentions of the Court of Auditors in respect of the draft budget for 1988, the executive

committee of the Union Syndicale de Luxembourg (trade union representing Community officials in Luxembourg) criticized the proposed increase in the number of temporary staff.

On March 17, 1987, the President of the Court of Auditors sent a letter to Mr Maurissen, who was the only official of that institution to be mentioned among the members of the executive committee of the union in that broadcast, a letter in which, after criticizing both the form and the substance of the broadcast, he stated that he had decided provisionally to prohibit the internal messenger services of the Court of Auditors from distributing union bulletins. In the letter he suggested other ways in which those bulletins might be distributed.

On March 11, 1987 the Secretary-General of the union had informed the President of the Court of Auditors of the cre-

ation of a trade union delegation at the court and asked him to release certain members of the delegation from their duties in order to take part in meetings with the Commission of the European Communities concerning staff questions.

On March 31, 1987, while taking note of the establishment of a union delegation, the President of the Court of Auditors replied to the Secretary-General that he could not accept the request for a release from duties.

Mr Maurissen and the union each brought an action against the decisions of March 17 and 31, 1987.

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities ruled as follows:

It was necessary first to recall the wording of article 24(a) of the Staff Regulations which provided: "Officials shall be entitled to exercise the right of association, they may in particu-

lar be members of trade unions or staff associations of European officials".

It was for the Community institutions and bodies to ensure that they did not do anything which might impede the exercise of trade union freedom recognized by that provision.

That trade union freedom implied, according to general principles of labour law, not only the right for officials and other staff, freely to constitute associations of their choice, but also the freedom for such associations, to take part in any lawful activity in the defence of the professional interests of their members.

It followed that Community institutions and bodies could not prohibit their officials and other staff from joining a trade union or professional organization or from taking part in trade union activities, nor could it penalize them in any manner whatsoever by reason of such

membership or activities. It also followed that the Community institutions and other bodies had to accept, without unjustified differences in treatment between trade union and professional bodies, that the latter performed their role of representing officials and other staff in negotiations with those institutions on all questions of concern to the staff.

The decision of March 17, 1987 put an end to the facility of utilizing the internal messenger service for distributing trade union bulletins. It did not prohibit the distribution of such bulletins within the Court of Auditors, in particular, as it appeared from the terms of the decision itself, it did not prevent trade union officials on their own initiative, from using any other means of distribution.

The decision was therefore limited to a refusal of an advantage, the granting of which would certainly have facilitated the task of Mr Maurissen as a trade union official, but the absence of which did not have the effect of impeding the exercise of his trade union activities.

Although trade union freedom was a general principle of labour law, its content could not be extended so far as to include an obligation upon Community institutions and bodies to make available to trade union organizations their messenger services for the purposes of the distribution to staff of notices emanating from those organizations.

Decision of March 31, 1989. Community institutions and bodies were bound to respect trade union activities which were necessary with a view to ensuring effective participation in the negotiation procedure which had been laid down in a Council decision.

Trade union freedom implied precisely the possibility for trade unions to take part in such negotiations and thereby to take part in the making of decisions.

It followed that, where the Commission had decided to assemble representatives of trade union or professional organizations with a view to preparing proposals to be submitted to the Council, those representatives had to have the necessary facilities to enable them to attend the meetings.

Thus, trade union representatives had to be able to be released from their duties for that purpose, according to means to be fixed unilaterally or by agreement by the authorities of each Community institution or body.

The decision of March 31, 1987 had therefore to be annulled, in as much as, by its nature as a statement of principle, it refused to release representatives of trade union or

professional organizations from their duties in order to enable them to take part in meetings organized by the Commission.

On those grounds the European Court held:

1 The decision of the President of the Court of Auditors of March 31, 1987 was annulled.

2 Mr Maurissen's other claims were rejected.

3 In Case C193/87, the Court of Auditors was to bear its own costs and half of those of Mr Maurissen, including those relating to the application for interim measures.

4 In Case C194/87, each of the parties was to bear its own costs.

Luxembourg

Union representatives to be given time off for carrying out their duties

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Continued from page 34

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CHAIR OF PSYCHIATRY OF THE ELDERLY

CHAIR OF CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND FAMILY PSYCHIATRY

Three new Chairs, located in the Department of Psychiatry, are in the process of being established from 1 April 1990 and will form part of UCL/MSA/West Essex Unit for Psychological Studies in Human Development and Ageing. The College intends to recruit an immediate appointment to each Chair at a distinguished senior level who will provide leadership in teaching and research in the field, including its interdisciplinary aspects.

Salary will be within the scale for a Clinical Professor post 1989 London Allowance.

The University of London will make the appointment to the Chair, but qualified psychiatrists interested in the post are invited at this stage to write for further particulars to Professor Rachel Rosser, Head of the Department of Psychiatry, University College London, Woburn Buildings, Riding House Street, London W1P 0AL.

Applicants (12 copies) including a curriculum vitae, list of publications and the names of 3 referees, should be sent to the Provost, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT by 17th February, 1990.

Equal Opportunities Employer.

MONASH UNIVERSITY

Melbourne, Australia

NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK CHAIR IN FINANCE

Applications are invited for appointment to the newly-created National Australia Bank Chair in Finance at Monash University. The University seeks a person of the highest academic standing for appointment to this prestigious new Chair, which is being funded with the assistance of the National Australia Bank. The University wishes to strengthen its teaching and research capabilities, especially in the area of corporate finance. Demonstrated administrative skills, the capacity for leadership, teaching experience at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and a successful record of research are essential requirements.

The current salary for a professor is A\$65,837 per annum. In addition, the University may approve a salary loading for this position. Benefits include superannuation, outside studies programs, travel and removal expenses, and temporary housing assistance.

Information on application procedure and further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, 3168, Australia, or from Appointments (37474), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, U.K. Enquiries of an academic nature may be addressed to Professor Robert Chenhall, Chairman, Department of Accounting and Finance.

Applications should reach the Registrar not later than Friday, 30 March 1990. Council reserves the right to make no appointment or to appoint by invitation at any stage.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

DOWNING COLLEGE

CAMBRIDGE

SCHOOL TEACHER FELLOW COMMONERSHIPS

Downing College, Cambridge invites applications from those who teach in secondary schools for Schoolteacher Fellow Commonerships tenable during the summer of 1990.

The Fellow Commonerships are tenable for up to five weeks between Monday 9 July and Saturday 11 August 1990. The principal purpose of the Fellow Commonerships are to enable schoolteachers to spend time in Cambridge to pursue their own studies and to enable them to discuss with officers of the College recent changes in admission procedures at Cambridge. The Fellow Commonerships will carry with them free accommodation in College, free common and payment of reasonable travel expenses.

Further details are available from the Senior Tutor, to whom inquiries should be addressed. It is expected that elections will be made late in the Lent Term or early in the Easter Term.

UNIVERSITY OF HULL

SCHOOL OF ARTS

LECTURESHIP IN MUSIC

Applications are invited for appointment to a LECTURESHIP IN MUSIC.

Candidates should be able to contribute effectively to the teaching of harmony and related techniques. Special interest in medieval or twentieth-century music would be an advantage and instrumental proficiency and/or expertise in music technology would be welcomed.

This post is available owing to a national initiative to create career opportunities for young academic staff. Whilst there is no age limit, applications from young persons will be particularly welcome.

Current Lecturer salary range is £10,458 - £15,372 p.a. (Grade A), £16,014 - £20,469 p.a. and beyond (Grade B). Increase expected from April 1990. Progression from Grade A to B is the normal expectation.

Applicants (6 copies or 4 from candidates overseas) by CV together with details of two academic referees should be sent to the Senior Personnel Officer (Ref PMA), University of Hull, HULL, HU6 7RL, from whom further particulars may be obtained (0482) 46570.

CLOSING DATE: 2 March 1990

UNIVERSITY OF HULL

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Gillingham is sunk by illness

Bryant cuts loose with a ruthless niceness

By Craig Lord

A depressed Nick Gillingham blamed nagging doubts and illness for his crushing defeat in the 200 metres breaststroke on the third day of the swimming events at the Henderson Pool.

England's hopes of gold evaporated long before a sluggish fourth and final length from Gillingham, which left Jon Cleveland, of Canada, powering home to victory in a Commonwealth Games record of 2min 14.96sec, followed by Rodney Lawson, of Australia, in 2:15.68.

Gillingham turned first at the 100 metres mark, but was well down on his half-way performance at the European championships, in Bonn, last summer, when he set a world record in 2:12.90 (broken by 0.01 of a second less than 36 hours later by Mike Barrowman, of the United States).

Given his mental and physical state, the world record, as Gillingham was first to admit, was never in danger on Saturday in a race which saw him edge into the bronze medal position ahead of Adrian Moorhouse, defending champion from Leeds.

Gillingham said: "The feeling just wasn't there. I'm not one to make excuses, I just swam badly. Having said that, I had a bladder infection and tonsillitis, for which I was taking medication up until a couple of weeks ago."

While that may have contributed to his defeat, Gillingham added: "This could all rest back in the 100 metres two days ago. That left nagging doubts about my abil-

ity and my condition. I was a second out of my best time, that was a shock, and I realized I wasn't swimming up to scratch."

British teams had mixed fortunes, while the Australians continued to dominate. England took a further silver and four bronzes, while Scotland and Wales still failed to figure on the medal table.

Mike Fibbens, of Barnet, set a personal best of 50.76 to win bronze in the 100 metres freestyle, behind Andrew Baildon, of Australia, who became the first man in the Commonwealth to break 50 seconds, with 49.80, to take his second gold of the Games.

Fibbens was back later to help the England squad take silver in the 4 x 100 metres freestyle, which was marked by a stunning last leg from Austyn Shortman, aged 17, of Bristol, who swam a 49.93 split, well over a second inside his best time to become the first British man to beat 50 seconds. The team clocked in at 3:22.61.

There was bronze for Madeleine Scarborough in the 100 metres butterfly. The Portsmouth schoolteacher set a British record of 1:01.33 in a close finish which saw Lisa Curry-Kenny, of Australia, win gold in 60.66 and her teammate, Susan O'Neill, take silver in 1:01.03, both times within the Commonwealth record.

Suki Brownson captured a much-deserved bronze in the 100 metres breaststroke in 1:11.54. The Wigan Wasps competitor came from fifth to third in the final 100 metres.



Golden girl: Hayley Lewis, the Australian swimmer, with her fourth gold medal of the Games after winning the 400 metres freestyle on Saturday. Lewis, aged 15, joins a small group of women swimmers to have won four

titles at the Games and still has two events, the 200 metres butterfly and 200 metres individual medley, to contest. Graham Smith, of Canada, is the only swimmer to have won six golds, at the 1978 Games in Edmonton.

WEEKEND RESULTS FROM AUCKLAND

ATHLETICS

Men

100 metres

First five in each heat and overall fastest (fastest losers qualify for semi-finals)

HEAT ONE: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT TWO: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT THREE: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

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HEAT SEVEN: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT EIGHT: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT NINE: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

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HEAT THIRTY-THREE: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT THIRTY-FOUR: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT THIRTY-FIVE: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT THIRTY-SIX: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT THIRTY-SEVEN: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

ATHLETICS

Men

100 metres

First five in each heat and overall fastest (fastest losers qualify for semi-finals)

HEAT ONE: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT TWO: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10.74; 5. M. G. G. (NZ), 10.85.

HEAT THREE: 1. K. Orlowski (NZ), 10.45; 2. M. L. Christie (NZ), 10.44; 3. P. Hays (NZ), 10.51; 4. P. O'Connell (NZ), 10
